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NO. 7835 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 1990/RAMADAN 9, 1410 AH 18 PAGES 150 FILLS

Israel launches satellite

Shamir aide calls for gas mask supply programme

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, April 3. (Agencies): Israel launched its second satellite into space today, witnesses said.

A rocket carrying the Ofek-2 satellite, said recently by foreign sources to be a military reconnaissance satellite, was fired from a launchpad in the centre of Israel at 3 pm.

The satellite was launched a day after Iraqi President Saddam Hussein threatened to destroy half of Israel with advanced chemical weapons if the Jewish state attacked Iraq.

Witnesses said Israeli troops cleared the area before the launch and prevented photographers from approaching the missile range.

Half an hour after lift-off, Israeli radio broadcast the roar of the rocket but reporters were not allowed to disclose the launch site. The radio said the rocket was fired westwards over the Mediterranean sea.

Israel became the first space power in the Middle East in Sept 1988 when it successfully launched what it said was an experimental communications satellite — Ofek 1 — into orbit.

NEWSWATCH

Bomb scare: Indian President Ramaswamy Venkataraman arrived in Britain for a three-day state visit on Tuesday but plans for a royal welcome had to be changed due to a bomb scare shortly before his plane touched down.

Police closed the rail station serving Gatwick airport near London after a bag was spotted on a platform where the president was due to take a special royal train into the capital. (Reuters)

India demands Bofors documents: India has demanded to see unpublished Swedish documents and question officials on claims that arms maker AB Bofors bribed Indian officials to secure a lucrative 1986 arms deal, the Foreign Ministry said yesterday.

Spokeswoman Anita Matejovsky said the demands were expressed in a diplomatic note presented by an Indian delegation to the ministry on Monday.

The Indian government alleges that Bofors paid \$40 million in bribes to members of the former Congress Party administration of Rajiv Gandhi in order to win a \$1.3 billion artillery contract in 1986.

Several unidentified Indian officials were charged in Delhi in January with criminal conspiracy, corruption, abuse of official position by public servants, cheating, forgery and criminal breach of trust.

Matejovsky said the Swedish government was studying the Indian note. (Reuters)

UAE man trying to set fathering record: A UAE man is trying to set what he believes to be a Gulf record by fathering 50 children, a local newspaper said yesterday.

Salim Juma from the small emirate of Ras Al Khaimah already has 32 children from eight women, four of them born over the last year, and another three expected, the Gulf News said.

The paper said Juma, an employee of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, has complained that his monthly salary of 12,000 dirhams (\$3,270) was not enough to keep his children, his current wives, and to pay off his four divorced wives.

Islam allows each man up to four wives at one time. (Reuters)

Arafat and Carter may meet in Paris: Former US President Jimmy Carter and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat would meet today in the French capital, a newspaper and radio station reported Monday.

Neither radio Monte Carlo or the Arab newspaper Al Hayat said what would be on the agenda.

A spokesman for the Carter Centre in Plains, Georgia, said Carter hoped the meeting with the Palestine Liberation Organisation leader would go forward but that nothing was firm.

The precise location will be kept secret until the talks end, the radio station reported, adding that Premier Michel Rocard or Foreign Minister Roland Dumas of France may attend. (AP)

US airlines offer reward: Playing on human greed, US airlines plan to offer \$1 million for information on international terrorists, supplementing the two million the US Congress last year authorised the State Department to offer for such data, an aviation expert said Monday.

Confirming reports of the proposed million dollar offer, US government security consultant Billie Vincent told USA Today newspaper.

"Money is the motivator for people to come forward with information. The bigger that (reward) fund gets, the better, regardless of the airlines' motive."

Some have questioned the offer, believing it to be a publicity gimmick. (Kuna)

Abu Ghazala gets key role: Egypt's former Defence Minister, Abdel-Halim Ghazala, has been given a key role in the country's ambitious privatisation plans, bringing the controversial ex-soldier back into the limelight.

Information Minister Safwat Sharif told reporters on Monday that President Hosni Mubarak, embarking on an era of privatising the country's massive public sector, had asked Abu Ghazala to monitor the work of a new ministerial committee. (Reuters)

Bulgaria agrees June polls: Bulgaria's Communist-dominated parliament on Tuesday cleared the way for free elections in June and appointed reformist politician Petar Mladenov to the new post of president.

At its last session before being dissolved, the national assembly also voted overwhelmingly in favour of the formation of political parties to contest the elections on June 10 and 17, formally scrapping the principle of one-party rule.

The elections, the first free multi-party poll in Bulgaria for 45 years, will complete a series of five East European states moving from one-party Communist rule to Western-style democracy.

The chamber ended the word "socialist" from Bulgaria's constitution and replaced it with "democratic". (Reuters)

Poland-Lithuania crossing Soviet closes border

WARSAW, April 3. (Reuters): The Soviet authorities closed the only border crossing between Poland and Lithuania today, the official PAP news agency said.

PAP said the Ogdreniki-Lazdijai crossing was temporarily closed at 9 am (0700 GMT) and only Polish and Soviet citizens returning home and trucks with goods would be allowed to cross it.

PAP added that Polish citizens holding Soviet visas and travelling on business would be allowed in but all public transport was banned.

Poles do not normally need visas to enter the Soviet Union.

No explanation for the closure was given and Polish Foreign Ministry officials were not immediately available for comment.

The Foreign Ministry later confirmed that the border had been shut and that only Polish and Soviet citizens returning home were allowed to cross.

"The ministry is not commenting on that fact for the time being," it said in a statement.

(See earlier report Page 7)



Hanging car

A Christian civilian checks a destroyed car hanging on a wall in battered east Beirut. Heavy battles erupted between rival Lebanese forces in east Beirut and mountains north of Beirut causing damage and inflicting unknown number of casualties. At least 880 people have been killed and 2500 wounded in two months of bloodshed. (Reuters wirephoto) Refer to Middle East page.

US criticises Shamir plans

Jewish settlements

WASHINGTON, April 3. (Reuters): The United States said yesterday it was disturbed that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir appeared ready to expand settlements in occupied territories and it looked forward to working with a new government on peace progress.

"It's disturbing that an Israeli leader who was unable to move forward on peace seems ready to move forward on new settlements," State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said.

"We look forward to working with a new government to move forward on peace progress, to working with a new government that emerges soon that is capable of moving the peace process forward."

She appeared to be referring to statements from Shamir's government on Sunday that it would continue a policy of building eight new settlements in territory occupied by Israel since the 1967 Middle East war.

Shamir's media adviser, Avi Pazner, told Reuters in Israel that he could not confirm a charge by Israeli parliament member Avraham Burg that Shamir's Likud Party was "going to escalate the rhythm for the confirmation of five settlements."

But he added: "What was agreed upon will be carried out. This government will continue the policy of the former government. This is what a transition government is all about."

The Likud-Labour government formed in 1988 decided to build eight new settlements but both parties had to agree on the timetable.

Likud no longer has that constraint, however, because Labour vacated the Finance Ministry, which would approve the necessary funds.

Labour vacated the position after the coalition crumbled last month over Shamir's refusal to accept US proposals for the first-ever Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

The Arab League yesterday asked the European Economic Community to help stem the emigration of Soviet Jews in Israel, EEC sources said.

They said a delegation of the Arab League met with Irish Foreign Minister Gerard Collins, whose country now holds the EEC presidency, to drum up international support for an end to the influx of Soviet Jews to Israel.

A senior aide to Shamir said yesterday that Israel has no plans to build Jewish settlements in the occupied territories beyond the ones agreed to earlier by the coalition government.

"There are no plans to establish any new settlements beyond those which were decided upon by the government of national unity," said Shamir spokesman Avi Pazner.

He said the government was determined to defend its right to defend itself, "chanted some of the demonstrators, who waved banners quoting from yesterday's speech."

Iraq has asked the Arab League council to hold an emergency meeting to express solidarity with Baghdad against Israel, the United States and other foreign powers considered hostile, a League official said today.

The League circulated the request to member states yesterday and the meeting at ambassador level will probably take place on Thursday.

Iraq wants the meeting to discuss "the hostile campaigns against Iraq by Israel, the United States and certain powers and Arab solidarity in the face of these campaigns," he added.

Palestinian leader Salah Khalaf said in an interview published in Tunis today that Israel was planning to attack Iraq.

"It might be through an intervention by the Israeli air force or through acts of sabotage at Iraqi installations or by inciting Iran and giving it assistance," he told the Tunisian government newspaper Al-Sabaha.

The United States said yesterday that Saddam's threat to retaliate if Israel attacks by smothering half of Israel with chemical weapons was "inflammatory, irresponsible and outrageous."

"To a region which is already volatile enough, no one should be trumpeting chemical weapons," State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said. "We should be trumpeting their destruction."

Defence Department spokesman Pete Williams told Reuters: "It's an inflammatory statement from a part of the world that doesn't need that kind of talk."

But Williams and other defence officials refused to say whether or not US intelligence reports supported Hussein's claim to possess sophisticated binary chemical weapons.

The former general who led Israel's 1981 attack on Iraq's nuclear reactor said yesterday the Jewish state could strike again to stop Iraq acquiring atomic weapons.

An aide to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir urged the government today to issue a gas mask to every Israeli in response to Saddam Hussein's threat to use binary nerve gas against Israel.

Michael Dekel, an aide to Shamir and former Deputy Defence Minister, said he urged the prime minister to quickly order distribution of gas masks now in warehouses.

"I simply want Prime Minister Shamir to move faster so that every Israeli citizen will feel safe in his home," Dekel said.

"We need to prepare the civilian population, not only with practice, but with equipment to the case of a surprise attack," Dekel added.

An army spokesman confirmed a newspaper report that the Home Guard, in charge of civilian defence, has prepared instruction videotapes on use of gas masks for broadcast on national television.

The Hebrew daily Maariv reported that the military Chief of Staff, Lt. Gen. Dan Shomron, decided to hand gas masks out to the public, meaning an order from Shamir could set the programme in motion.

Gas masks were recently distributed to residents of two Tel Aviv suburbs in an experiment to determine whether the public would take responsibility for the equipment in private homes.

Israel radio said the experiment was successful. But an army spokesman said no conclusions were reached and denied any knowledge of Shomron's decision to distribute the masks.

In Baghdad the ruling Baath Party staged rallies throughout the country today to support Saddam and his announcement that Iraq possesses sophisticated chemical weapons.

Iraqi officials, meanwhile, insisted that Saddam's vow yesterday to incinerate half of Israel if attacked was meant to head off an Israeli assault, and not as a threat of aggression.

Crowds of several hundred chanting demonstrators organised by the Baath Party were ferried by buses to at least six sites in Baghdad and to others in major cities of the province.

"The people have the right to defend themselves," chanted some of the demonstrators, who waved banners quoting from yesterday's speech.

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Prisoners hurl missiles

Rioting prisoners from Manchester's Strangeways prison hurl missiles from rooftop positions on Monday on the second day of their protest. Unconfirmed reports said that up to 20 prisoners may have been killed in the violence that erupted in the overcrowded jail on Sunday. (Reuters wirephoto) Refer to page 2.

Sikh bombs kill 31

ETS cancels scores of 2,744

Test cheating

AMRITSAR, India, April 3. (AP): A powerful bomb exploded in a vegetable market in Punjab, killing at least 31 people and injuring 60 others today as Hindu residents were celebrating a religious holiday, police said.

An indefinite curfew was imposed in Batala after the blast that occurred at 3 pm (0930 GMT) when the market was crowded with holiday shoppers, senior police Superintendent S.K. Goel said.

He said Sikh extremists were suspected of planting the bomb, which has hidden in a parked motor scooter. Sikh militants have killed more than 500 people this year in their quest to set up a separate homeland in Punjab.

Earlier today, a bomb exploded on a bus in another town near Amritsar, killing the driver and one passenger, senior police Superintendent Anand Sharma said. Police blamed Sikh extremists for the blast that happened near Taragarh, 28 kms (17 miles) northeast of Amritsar.

Sharma said both victims of the bus attack were Sikhs.

Last night, Sikh extremists killed four members of a Sikh family in another part of Punjab, police said.

Soon after the Batala blast, Hindu mobs buried stones at a police station 150 yards (metres) from the vegetable market, Goel said but added he did not know if any policeman was injured.

"The situation is very tense," he said.

He said 20 people were killed in the bombing and two others died from their wounds at a hospital.

The injured, many of them in serious condition, were admitted to hospitals in Batala and Amritsar, he said.

Press Trust of India carried a preliminary list of the victims, whose names indicated that most were Hindus.

Among those killed were four women and two children, Goel said.

United News of India said the

NEW YORK, April 3. (AP): A five-month investigation has found an epidemic of cheating on standardised tests in India, leading to cancellation of 6,600 scores, the Educational Testing Service said yesterday.

Evidence of what is perhaps the worst outbreak of standardised test cheating ever came to light in December when the testing service said it was wiping out the scores of 2,744 Indian students who had taken the Graduate Record Examination in October.

An investigation by ETS revealed widespread security breaches at many Indian test centres, and there was evidence that students had been able to buy copies of the examination in advance.

Widespread cheating and test buying continued despite the investigation, said Charlotte Kuhl, executive director of Graduate Record Exam programmes for ETS.

As a result, she said, the testing service will offer the graduate exams less frequently and at fewer locations in India. And she said the service had cancelled the test scores of students who took the GRE on Jan 30, Feb 3 and Feb 10, bringing the number of score cancellations to about 6,600.

"The problem was somewhere in our shipping process," said Kuhl, who declined to elaborate on who the culprits were.

"We are certain that the majority of students in India did not have pre-knowledge of the test questions," said Kuhl.

"Nonetheless, because it is ETS' responsibility to provide valid test scores, ETS must cancel all scores to group security cases when it is impossible to determine which scores are valid and which are not."

Some 366,000 students world-wide take the GRE each year, and 14,000 take the exam in India, according to ETS. Most students who take the test do so to gain entry into US graduate school programmes.

Last December, ETS spokesman Ray Nicolson said the service had received dozens of letters from Indian students and test centre supervisors indicating that students had been able to buy copies of the standardised tests before the administration dates.

hombing occurred during a procession marking Ram Navami, a Hindu holiday celebrating the birth of Rama, a heroic warrior-king. Rama is extolled in Hindu lore as an incarnation of Vishnu, a member of the supreme Hindu trinity of deities.

Police also blamed Sikh extremists for an attack on a bus last night in Uttar Pradesh state, news agencies reported. It is separated from Punjab by Haryana state.

United News of India said one police guard was killed and 11 passengers were wounded when five gunmen stopped the bus. But a second police guard killed one of the gunmen and the others fled, according to United News.

Press Trust of India said police recovered a Chinese assault rifle bearing the inscription "Khalistan Commando Force."

Testimony begins

Imelda's trial

NEW YORK, April 3. (UPI): Testimony in the fraud and conspiracy trial of Imelda Marcos, the fallen first lady of the Philippines, and Adnan Khashoggi, the wealthy Saudi arms merchant, was set to begin today in US district court.

The high-profile trial, expected to last into July, focuses on the alleged plundering by Imelda and her deceased husband, Ferdinand, of more than \$168 million from the Philippines. Prosecutors say Khashoggi then helped hide the stolen funds by investing the Imeldas millions in New York real estate and art.

Charles Labella, the lead US attorney prosecuting the case, said the government would take about 90 minutes to present its opening argument.

Jury selection in the case ended last week, with seven women and five men picked to hear the trial before US district judge John Keenan.

Prosecutors charge Imelda and her husband, the deposed president of the Philippines who died last Sept 28, used Khashoggi as a key figure in the Iran-Contra arms deal — to hide the money stolen from their native land's treasury.

The defence is headed by Gerry Spence, an imposing figure who dons a cowboy hat on his way into the Lower Manhattan courthouse.

Pretrial motions by the defence have indicated Spence may argue that Imelda Marcos should not be convicted for the alleged misdeeds of her husband, who reputedly obtained his fortune by way of embezzlement, bribery and kickbacks.

KUWAITI, April 3. (Reuters): Two Asian domestic servants stole gold jewellery and other valuables worth \$2 million from a Kuwaiti woman and fled the country, a Kuwaiti newspaper said today.

The Al Sayassah daily, quoting informed sources, said the servants stole the jewellery from the woman's bedroom.

Kuwait had informed Interpol of the robbery, the biggest reported in Kuwait. There were no further details.

Ramadan timings

Imsak: 4.04 am
Ifar: 6.09 pm

DAY BY DAY

I MET a friend of mine, after a long spell to find that he had gained tremendous weight.

Quering him, my friend explained that as he was now old, he had lost all lust and appetite, except the appetite to eat and consequently was eating the best type of food which has contributed to his extraordinary weight.

The answer made me laugh for quite a while.

Zahed Matar

ARAB TIMES

Grand Bingo

MR. HANIF H. MOOSA has won the Third Full House prize. He will receive KD40. The answer to the clue is 83.

American implicated in Manila coup didn't represent US govt.

MANILA, April 3. (UPI): The US Embassy said today a US national implicated by a Filipino general in the December uprising against President Corason Aquino did meet with coup plotters but did not represent the US government.

US Embassy spokesperson Victoria Middleton said in a statement that Harold Maglio, who was introduced to Brig. Gen. Alejandro Galido as a US Air Force officer with the Defence Intelligence Agency, was just a civilian employee at Norton Air Force Base in California.

Galido, who was assigned by the Philippines military to infiltrate the coup plotters, said in a sworn statement that Maglio met with the coup plotters in July 1989 and offered to supply them with anti-tank weapons for \$20 million.

"Mr Maglio has never had any connection with the Defence Intelligence Agency, nor was he ever a colonel in the US Air Force," Middleton said.

"He has no responsibility for policy, intelligence or political matters within the US government and his work does not involve the Philippines. Mr Maglio was traveling on vaca-

tion to the Philippines as a private individual."

Middleton said Maglio was employed with the Norton Air Base as a "civilian quality assurance manager."

She said his meeting with Galido took place in April 1989.

Galido's statement drew a storm of protest in the Congress, media and among ordinary Filipinos when it implied an implication of US meddling in the Southeast Asian nation's often-turbulent civilian-military relations.

The United States provided cover for loyal government troops during the Dec 1-9 coup attempt, saving Aquino from the sixth and

gravest challenge in her four years as president.

Middleton said Washington "does not support any activity aimed at destabilising the Philippine government. Any representation that there is such official support is false."

She said the Philippine government was aware of the meeting with Galido and reported it to US law enforcement officials.

The Chairman of the Senate Defence Committee Sen. Ernesto Maceda, said today he will file a resolution lifting the nationwide state of emergency if there is no coup attempt this month.

INTERNATIONAL

Rajiv's
attacker
released
from jail

COLOMBO, April 3. (AP): A young Sinhalese sailor who clubbed India's then-prime minister Rajiv Gandhi with his rifle butt was among 700 prisoners released under a special pardon, a prison official said.

Vijitha Rohana was a member of a navy honour guard when he attacked Rajiv in 1987. The Indian leader had gone to Colombo to sign a peace pact designed to end a revolt by Tamil guerrillas. The rifle butt struck Rajiv's shoulder.

Rohana, 24, was sentenced to six years in prison in the attack. The incident shocked both the Indian and Sri Lankan governments and was widely regarded as an expression of Sinhalese anger at the Indian-sponsored attempts to give a measure of autonomy to the Tamil minority.

Within weeks of the signing of the peace accord, Sinhalese extremists began assassinating Sri Lankan government officials and supporters.

Rohana was exonerated of a charge of attempted murder after his lawyers claimed that he would have used his bayonet instead of the rifle butt if he had really wanted to kill Rajiv.

The list of those freed from Sri Lanka's overcrowded prisons was drawn up last week by Justice Minister Shavula Hameed.

Prisons throughout the island are jammed because of the ethnic and political violence that has gripped the country since the Tamil revolt began in 1983.

More than 11,000 people died in the Tamil uprising, including 1,155 members of the Indian peacekeeping force that was withdrawn on March 24.

At least 6,000 more people died in the struggle between ultra-nationalist Sinhalese and the Sinhalese-controlled government.

A week after the last of the Indian soldiers left north-eastern Sri Lanka, this northern town is in threshold of witnessing another power, but more popular, taking over control of its people.

UK plans to cut numbers, modernise armed forces.

LONDON, April 3. (Reuters): Britain unveiled plans yesterday to streamline and modernise its armed forces, but ruled out major defence cuts during what it called the uncertainties of political change in Eastern Europe.

Presenting draft legislation for 1990, Defence Secretary Tom King said "exciting developments" in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union "bringing into question a number of the bases on which our defences in the past have

been structured."

He told a news conference that while Britain looked forward to a successful conclusion of conventional arms control talks between Nato and the Warsaw Pact in Vienna, its approach to arms reduction would remain cautious. "Our job in defence is not to take risks... but to ensure that we still have the defences that we might need if things turn out worse than we hoped."

King stressed the armed forces might become smaller "but still very substantial" with any cuts contingent on the outcome of the changes in the Warsaw Pact countries.

The draft repeated Britain's adherence to an independent strategic deterrent, but left open the possibility for the first time of including this in the Strategic Arms Reduction talks (Start) negotiations between the Soviet Union and the United States if substantial cuts were agreed.

Even the successful conclusion on a Start treaty would not remove the need for Britain to replace its ageing Polaris missiles with the more potent Trident system in the mid-1990s, it added.

On conventional arms cuts, King ruled out a withdrawal of British forces in West Germany in response to Soviet troop cuts in East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Hungary, citing Soviet troop superiority and the imbalance of naval forces in its favour.

The draft law forecast defence spending of £21.22 billion (\$34.6 billion) this year, up five per cent over last year's figure, with naval spending set to rise for the first time in four years.

Defence spending for forces on Europe's central front will fall to £4.135 billion (\$6.7 billion) from £4.349 billion (\$7.1 billion). Naval spending will rise to £2.67 billion (\$4.4 billion) from £2.59 billion (\$4.2 billion).

The statement also expressed concern over the spread of ballistic missiles and chemical and biological warfare technology, particularly in the Middle East.

It mentioned Libya, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria, Israel, and Iran in the Middle East as well as China, India, Afghanistan and Pakistan as countries "we believe to have or are developing a ballistic missile capability."

NEWS IN BRIEF

WHO study on smoking: An estimated 500 million people will die from smoking in the next 25 years, according to a World Health Organisation study released in Perth, Australia, yesterday.

WHO statistician Dr Alan Lopez and Richard Peto, an epidemiologist at Britain's Oxford University, said their study indicated smoking would be the number one cause of death in the world by the turn of the century.

"Today there will be 8,000 deaths a day from smoking, but when the kids reach middle age there will be something like 28,000 deaths a day," Peto told reporters at the world conference on tobacco and health.

If present patterns continued, 200 million people under the age of 20 and 300 million adults will die of smoking by 2015, Peto said.

Security Council veto powers: UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said in an interview published today he was opposed to an extension of Security Council veto power to Japan and a unified Germany.

"There are people who say that the right of the veto (exercised by the present five permanent members) is unjust," Perez de Cuellar told the Paris daily Le Figaro. "So why should it be necessary to increase the number of countries that exercise it?"

He added: "We already have enough problems dealing with five. It will be much more difficult coping with seven. In any case that will open the door. The Latin Americans will say why not us. And the Africans too."

"The veto power should not be enlarged. (It would be) better to restrict it," (Reuters)

15 killed in Taiwan fire: Fire swept through a building housing a barbershop and apartments in the Taiwanese northern city of Taoyuan early today, killing 15 people and injuring eight others, police reported.

Police in Taoyuan, about 50 kms (31 miles) west of Taipei, said the charred bodies of six people were found in the barbershop, which occupied the second and third floors of a seven-story building. Nine more bodies were found in apartments on the fourth and fifth floors, they said.

Five people were hospitalised with burns, while three others suffered minor injuries, police said. Firemen said the injured people included a clerk in the barbershop and several apartment residents. (AP)

Democratic nations to meet: Pakistan government will convene a conference of the Association of Democratic Nations in Islamabad by the end of the current year or early next year, federal Minister of Law and Justice Iftikhar Hussain Gilani said.

In an interview with official news agency APP he said though the conference would be held at foreign ministers' level, some heads of democratic countries would also be invited to attend. (Kuna)

India to increase food production: India is expected to achieve record food production of 174 million tonnes in 1989-90.

The production, which was around 50 million tonnes in 1950, touched 172 million tonnes in 1988-89. By the turn of this century, the country will have to meet the daunting task of raising the production of foodgrains to the level of 250 million tonnes to feed one billion mouths.



Rare snowfall

A woman leaps to the curb on the way to her car on Monday during the heavier part of a rare Jerusalem snowfall. The last time it snowed in occupied Jerusalem in April was in 1949 and before that in 1820. The centimetre of snow that fell in an hour melted quickly. (Reuters wirephoto)

of the current year or early next year, federal Minister of Law and Justice Iftikhar Hussain Gilani said.

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6 killed,
27 hurt
in Nepal
violence

KATHMANDU, April 3. (UPI): Pro-democracy demonstrators set fire to a bulldozer carrying police trying to enter a suburb today where protesters have trapped hundreds of officers.

Also today, medical sources reported at least six people were killed and 27 wounded yesterday in battles between protesters and authorities in the Himalayan kingdom, which has been subjected to six weeks of protest of Nepal's partyless system of government.

Doctors at teaching hospital, a hotbed of opposition activity, were refusing to hand over to police the bodies of demonstrators killed during protests. The doctors laid down in front of police vans as they tried to enter the hospital and said the bodies would be handed over only to relatives.

"Kathmandu, studded with pagoda-style temples, this morning looked like a battle-scarred city as police moved out again to quell demonstrations. The streets were littered with stones and still in place were the roadblocks erected by residents to prevent police vehicles from entering the town."

A mile (1,500m) outside the capital, protesters set fire to a bulldozer carrying police attempting to enter the barricaded suburb of Patan to free some 330 officers trapped in the city centre by demonstrators, residents reported. There was no immediate word on casualties.

Last night, demonstrators, many of them armed with sickles, hoes and home-made weapons, rampaged through the ancient streets of Kathmandu, which were plunged into darkness by a lights-out protest organised by the opposition.

Residents of the capital said police and groups of armed demonstrators fought much of the night in the streets, with officers opening fire on the protesters and using tear-gas in an attempt to disperse the crowds.

Hospitals and residents in Kathmandu reported at least six people were killed and 15 others were wounded during violence in or near the capital last night.

Witnesses said three people died and six were seriously wounded yesterday in the town of Kirtipur, 3 miles (5 km) west of Kathmandu, when police fired on demonstrators. The government said officers opened fire after a 600-strong mob tried to set fire to a police post.

An anti-government demonstration of about 75,000 people tried to march to the capital yesterday but was stopped without violence by police at a bridge.

At least 22 people have been confirmed killed by police in the six weeks of demonstrations and thousands have been arrested in the struggle by banned political parties to force King Birendra to end Nepal's royal-dominated system of panchayats or elected councils, and return to a multi-party system.

King Birendra, one of the world's last absolute monarchs, is facing the toughest challenge to his rule in the last 11 years as the movement for the restoration of multi-party democracy continued to gather momentum.

In 1979, when the king was confronted by similar student-led demonstrations, he called a referendum, giving his subjects an option to maintain the panchayat with reforms or reintroduce multi-party system, banned 29 years ago.

The King reportedly again was trying to introduce reforms to the panchayat system to quell the crisis but the opposition has stood firm in its demand for a multi-party system.

The unrest has forced the government to close nearly all schools and campuses in the Kathmandu valley, which have been centres of the protest movement.

Residents of the capital reported police fled from many parts of the city last night after running out of tear-gas shells, which were used to disperse late mobs.

Demonstrators shouting, "we want democracy" and "down with the panchayat system" went on a rampage throughout the city last night, stoning houses of prominent pro-government politicians and the office of the Kathmandu mayor.

Deal under way
at Strangeways

35 surrender, 64 still holding out

MANCHESTER, April 3. (AP): Thirty-five inmates who had rioted at Strangeways prison surrendered this morning, and the government said negotiations were under way with 64 holdouts to end the three-day siege.

At another facility, Long Lartin prison, 33 inmates who had barricaded a landing overnight after guards thwarted an attempted breakout ended their protest peacefully this morning, the Home Office said. No injuries to staff or inmates were reported at the prison, which is 100 miles (160 kilometres) south of Manchester.

"There are now 64 inmates left within Manchester prison," a Home Office spokeswoman said today. Those who surrendered, she said, "came out voluntarily."

The prison governor, assisted by trained negotiators, opened talks with prisoners this morning. "They will be ongoing to try and peacefully settle, and bring it to an end," said a Home Office spokeswoman, who spoke on condition she not be identified.

A representative of the inmates had offered to permit an observer to enter the five captured wings of the prison to verify the inmates' claims that no one had been killed in the rioting.

Press reports have speculated that as many as 30 inmates were killed after rioting broke out during a chapel service on Sunday morning. Sex offenders, detested by many other prisoners, were believed to be most at risk of being attacked during the rioting.

"They are saying there are no dead bodies in the establishment and have offered to let us go in to verify it," said Ivor Serle, chairman of the local branch of the Prison Officers' Association.

Serle said the inmates were making no demands, but prisoners climbed out on the roof this morning in freezing rain to hang up a banner saying "media contact now."

Some press reports have claimed that as many as a dozen inmates were killed at Strangeways since rioting began Sunday morning.

Authorities at Strangeways said 37 inmates and 12 prison guards were injured in the rioting that broke out Sunday.

Serle said he believed all sex offenders, those believed to be in the most danger of attack by other inmates, had been accounted for. Negotiations were under way between the prison governor and the prisoners, Serle said.

Inmates who had been driven indoors overnight by cold and rain returned to the roof in a downpour this morning and displayed banners which read "no dead" and "RIP Strangeways."

Home Office spokesman Roy Payne said groups of inmates who took part in the rioting at Strangeways had been gradually surrendering but that 64 remained at large in the prison early today.

"We are adopting a softly-softly approach" to ending the trouble, he said. "There is a dialogue going on" between prison staff and the prisoners still on the loose, Payne said.

"They've got plenty of food, plenty of drugs and plenty of fresh air," Serle said, referring to looting of hospital storerooms and hospital.

Police with riot gear remained on standby at the prison along with squads of armed officers.

The Strangeways riot began when prisoners at a religious service took keys from guards and used them to gain access to large areas of the prison. They started fires and at one point it was feared the prison would burn down.

Relatives of inmates said factors adding to tension at Strangeways included overcrowding, with up to three prisoners in cells built for one, unsanitary conditions, and prisoners being locked in cells for up to 23 hours a day.

Tremor shakes England, Wales
LONDON, April 3. (AP): An earth tremor shook a broad swathe of England and Wales yesterday, emptying buildings and sending hundreds of frightened people into the streets, police said.

The tremor, believed to be centred west of Nottingham in central England, was felt from the outskirts of London to south Wales, and north through Birmingham, Coventry and Manchester to the Scottish border, police stations around the country reported.



Strangeway rioting prisoners shown demonstrating on the roof. (Reuters wirephoto)

Task force to
probe into riot

Poll tax protest

LONDON, April 3. (UPI): The government set up a 100-member police task force to investigate a weekend anti-tax riot in which scores were hurt and hundreds of stores and cars were damaged.

Home Secretary David Waddington told Parliament yesterday that about 3,000 "troublemakers" bent on violence "were among the tens of thousands of protesters who marched through London on Saturday to protest Britain's new poll tax."

Rioting broke out after the end of the peaceful demonstration, attended by 40,000 according to police and 150,000 according to organisers.

Mobs rampaged through central London for several hours, battling police, setting fires, breaking windows, looting stores and overturning cars.

The government said 374 police officers were wounded, with 38 requiring hospital treatment, and 86 civilians were hurt. There were 250 reports of damage to property.

The new community poll tax went into effect on Sunday in England and Wales, one year after it was imposed in Scotland. The tax requires local city councils to set a flat sum that must be paid by every resident at least 18 years old, with some exceptions.

There have been other riots in previous weeks as local councils set tax rates.

Unlike income tax, or the property tax it replaces, the poll tax does not discriminate according to wealth, which has caused bitter complaints that the richest man in England, the Duke of Westminster, pays the same amount as one of his servants.

Waddington said all responsible members of Parliament shared his "sense of outrage" over the violence and added he was assigning 100 officers to conduct a major criminal investigation of the riot that will include viewing videotapes of the incident to identify leaders.

A separate investigation by the police commissioner will examine the way police responded to the rioting and determine "what lessons can be learned," he said.

"The right of peaceful demonstration is one which I will always defend," Waddington said, "but the scenes in our capital city on Saturday have nothing whatsoever to do with peaceful demonstration."

"There can be no justification whatsoever for the savage and barbaric acts which millions saw on their television screens, not just in Britain but, sadly, around the world."

Police and court officials said 68 people who had been jailed since the Saturday night riots were arraigned in courts around London on Monday. A total of 339 people were arrested during the riots, but most were released on bail pending future court appearances.

Four other people faced charges after being arrested during Waddington's tour of the riot area in central London yesterday.

Most of those arraigned yesterday were charged with public disorder, looting or burglary, a police spokesman said. Some were released after paying fines equivalent to 162, while those charged with serious assaults faced possible jail sentences.

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6th PRIZE

Jewellery + KD. 500 cash + 3 toys

7th PRIZE

Jewellery + KD. 500 cash + 3 toys

8th PRIZE

Jewellery + KD. 500 cash + 3 toys

9th PRIZE

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LANCET

Bejart plans Oriental ballet

CAIRO, April 3. (Reuters): With the pyramids as a backdrop and dance inspired by Islamic music, French choreographer Maurice Bejart is to stage a new ballet in Egypt next month.

Unveiling plans at a news conference yesterday, Bejart, who converted to Islam six years ago, said the ballet will be based on Islamic music from the Arab world, Iran, India and Pakistan.

Bejart, one of the world's best-known choreographers and currently director of the "Bejart Ballet Lausanne" in Switzerland, has a reputation for staging ballets across the world, drawing inspiration from the local culture.

Based in Brussels until three years ago, he has staged performances in Japan, in the ancient capital city of Persepolis and in Baalbek in Lebanon.

Learn

"What I have been trying in 25 years of work is to go round the world performing. Europe is now a very small part of the world and we have to learn about other countries," he said.

His latest ballet, "Pyramide," will follow famous characters connected with Egypt from ancient times to modern days — the pharaohs, Dhul Nun, a Sufi mystic of the middle ages, Alexander the Great, Napoleon Bonaparte and Egyptian singer Om Kalthoum.

"I was interested by lots of characters who went through Egypt," said Bejart. "Through this character (Dhul Nun)... I had something to help me to put everything together and who becomes the soul of the performance."

The ballet, due to have its premier on May 25, will be performed by the 60-strong ballet Lausanne, and based on Bejart's own style rather than imitating oriental dance.

"I think it's very bad to do false folklore. You must have a style and you try to understand the soul of the country by your style and not try to imitate from outside," he said.

Desert

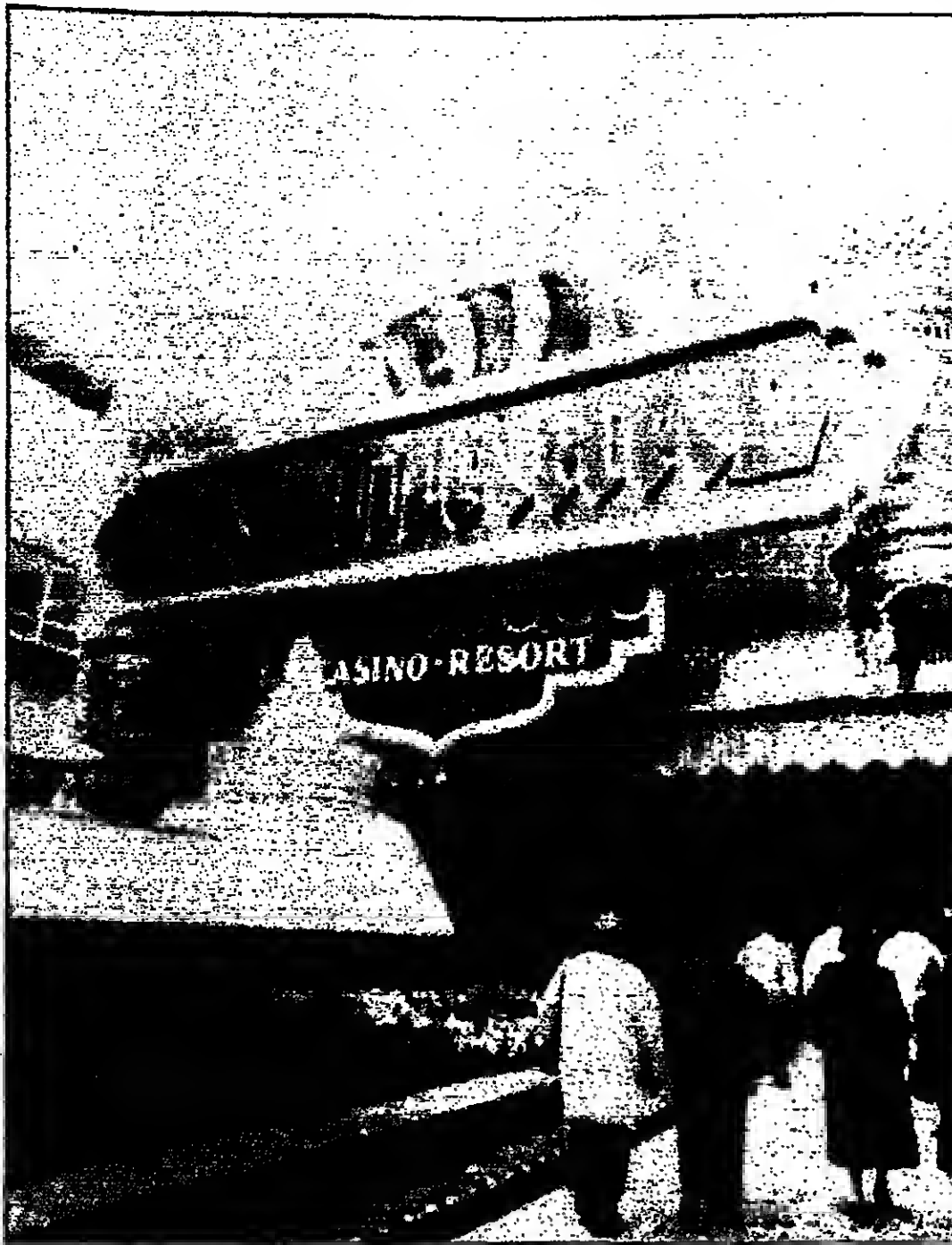
At a cost of some \$200,000, a stage is to be built out in the desert with no other backdrop but the pyramids.

Egyptian authorities are already promising a gala dinner with international celebrities at the premiere and tourist companies are offering a night at the ballet as part of a package tour. The ballet will run from May 17 to May 25.

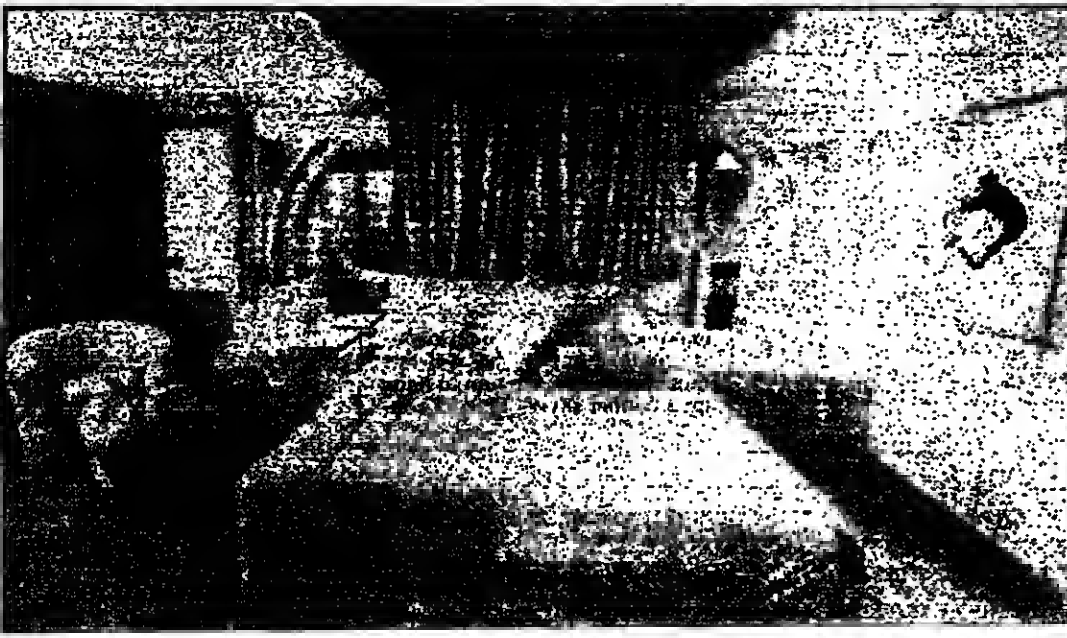
Bejart, however, says this ballet is for Egyptians.

"My wish is to give this performance to the Egyptian people and that it could be seen by different levels of society. I have no wish to come here if it is to play only for tourists," he told the news conference.

Tickets start at 20 Egyptian pounds (eight dollars) for students rising to 200 Egyptian pounds (\$80).



First day gamblers enter the Taj Mahal casino, on Monday. It is Donald Trump's third casino in Atlantic City. Trump boasts the largest casino in the world waits for its full operating licence expected on Thursday. (Reuters wirephoto)



The Raja suite at the new Taj Mahal casino, Donald Trump's billion dollar gamble, sports an Indian motif featuring replicas of elephant tusks and a \$600 per night price tag. The casino, which is the size of two American football fields, is the biggest and best gambling den in the world, Trump said. (Reuters wirephoto)

Trump's new casino opens with fanfare and full house

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey, April 3. (UPI): Gamblers and gamblers got a preview of billionaire Donald Trump's immense new \$1 billion casino yesterday one of the few times the real estate tycoon and gaming magnate has done business with play money.

Crowds streamed into the Taj Mahal Casino resort beginning at 10 am when the doors were flung open for the first time.

By noon, the 120,000-square-foot (11,150-sq-m) casino floor — the largest in the world — was packed and no slot machines were available.

The slots accepted real coins, but gamblers had to use play money at the craps

tables and blackjack and baccarat games during a state-required period of test gaming.

"I'm really happy," said billionaire Trump, who wove his way through the casino several times, accepting congratulations, signing autographs and stopping occasionally to chat with a scurrying cocktail waitress.

"I cannot believe the kind of crowd we have," said Trump, who also owns the Trump Plaza and Trump Castles Casinos in Atlantic City. "It's Monday morning and it's raining and I don't think there is an empty machine to be had."

During the test period, gaming regulators will review the Taj's operations to determine if casino personnel are capable of handling real money according to proper procedure.

A decision was expected late last night as to whether the test period would continue or if low-limit betting or full play would be allowed today. Taj officials hope to get their final regulatory approvals by Thursday, when the casino is planning an official opening celebration.

Thursday's bash originally was to include an appearance by Maria Maples, reportedly the "other woman" in Trump's mega-dollar divorce battle with his Czech-born wife,

Ivana. After originally inviting Maples, Trump later withdrew the invitation.

The Taj, which features 70 colourful minarets, spires and onion domes and \$14 million worth of chandeliers, has 12 restaurants and at 42 stories is New Jersey's tallest building.

"I think it's fantastic," Angelina Wescott of Camden, who played hooky from her job to attend the Taj opening. "It's beautiful. That guy must have spent a fortune on this place."

Trump floated \$675 million in junk bonds to build the extravagant boardwalk casino and must come up with \$94 million a year to

pay the debt service.

Industry analysts have said Trump will have to rake in more than \$1 million a day from gamblers to make the 1,250-room casino-hotel a success.

Anthony Parillo, director of the New Jersey division of gaming enforcement, said by noon yesterday there had been no major glitches in the test gaming.

"There is one huge crowd here," said Parillo as he surveyed the crowded gaming floor. "It's putting a strain on the system, but I think they are going to come through it very well."

The long-anticipated opening attracted a

Trump rival, Jack Gallaway, president of Tropworld Casino and Entertainment Resort, which until the Taj boasted the largest casino floor in town, said he had stopped in to take a look.

"It's a beautiful casino," Gallaway said. "I wish him luck. A large casino floor is a big advantage, especially on the weekends when the city is straining at the seams. But when it's empty, it's really empty."

Gallaway predicted that after a "year's shakeout," the business which the Taj might lure away from its 11 competitors, business at all the casinos would return to normal.

Court spares Harris life

SAN QUENTIN, Calif., April 3. (Reuters): Convicted killer Robert Harris escaped becoming the first person to be executed in the state of California in 23 years yesterday when the US supreme court voted at the last minute to spare his life, at least temporarily.

The stay of execution, by a 6-3 vote, came within 12 hours of his appointment with death in the gas chamber. Harris, 37, who killed two San Diego teenagers in 1978, had been scheduled for execution at 3 a.m. (100 GMT) today.

Death-penalty opponents said his death would have opened the floodgates to many more executions in California and other

prisons across the country.

San Quentin prison had already locked its most dangerous inmates in their cells in preparation for Harris' execution when word of the supreme court ruling came.

State officials were angered by the federal judiciary's interference in the Harris case, saying the stay of the execution robbed California citizens of justice.

Governor George Deukmejian, who as a state lawmaker in 1977 wrote California's death-penalty law, responded angrily at a news conference in Sacramento, the state capital.

"The facts in this case are not in dispute,"

he said. "Robert Harris murdered those two young boys in cold blood and he admits it." Attorneys for Harris, the first of about 270 California convicts awaiting execution, claim that Harris was not represented by competent psychiatric counsel at his 1979 trial.

On Friday they persuaded judge John Noonan of the US circuit court of appeals to stay the execution. Over the weekend California asked the supreme court to overturn Noonan.

Deukmejian singled out judge Noonan in particular for criticism, saying the judge had had the Harris case before him for 14 months during an earlier appeal.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

NEW YORK: Prince Philip, Queen Elizabeth II's husband, attended a gala benefit performance of Andrew Lloyd Webber's new Broadway musical "Aspects of Love" and went backstage to greet the cast.

Proceeds from the performance at the Broadway Theatre will benefit three youth organisations. The prince visited as patron and trustee of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

The show opens April 8, but preview performances began two weeks ago. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Entertainer Dolly Parton recently sold her three-bedroom home in the Hollywood hills, at close to the \$2-million asking price, according to her real estate agent.

Miss Parton also has a home in Tennessee, where she spends most of her time, but she is likely to buy another house in Los Angeles after she completes a 70-city concert tour with Kenny Rogers. (AP)

LONDON: The Duchess of York's sister, Jane Makin, has accepted substantial undisclosed damages and a public apology from the Daily Mirror newspaper over stories suggesting she had an adulterous affair.

The adultery allegations appeared in three stories published in October 1988. Two were on the front page.

The daily mirror also ran a story that alleged Mrs. Makin tried to trick her husband, Alexander Makin into signing visa papers so she could take their two children to England. The Makins are separated and live in Australia. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Fans snapped up 2,500 tickets to Madonna concerts in the first minute of sales and 60,000 tickets in just over one hour, a ticket agency said.

"She's a sensational performer and her popularity is huge," said Fred Rosen, chief executive officer of Ticketmaster, the nation's largest computerised ticket outlet. The sultry pop idol was to perform two concerts May 11 and 12 at the Los Angeles sports arena. When those sold out, two more shows were added for May 13 and 15 and they also sold out, said publicist Larry Solter. Tickets for a fifth date, May 16, will also go on sale.

In all, half a million tickets went on sale nation-wide for Madonna concerts in New York, New England, Philadelphia, Chicago and Houston. (AP)



Monroe's dress

A Marilyn Monroe look-alike displays a dress that is to be auctioned at the Sotheby's Rock 'N' Roll auction in London on April 25. The dress was originally owned by Marilyn Monroe and was left in London for minor alterations in the 1950s. (Reuters wirephoto)

BERKELEY, California: The \$15 programme was airbrushed to erase some laugh lines and gray hairs, but the 60,000-crowd revelled in the real thing when Paul McCartney performed at Memorial Stadium. Fans snatched up \$300 worth of programmes in less than three minutes in a buying frenzy "straight

out of jaws," said salesman Eli Glick. The programme featured photographs of the 47-year-old former Beatle that made him look at least 10 years younger.

But many fans at the concert were as gray-haired as their idol. "Fandom is for all ages," said Vivian Kim, 40, who met McCartney in 1983 after haunting the Oxford Street Studio in London where he recorded "Give My Regards to Broad Street". (AP)

COPENHAGEN, Denmark: American jazz pianist, clarinetist and composer Mehdi Richard Abrams has won the first international jazz prize.

Abrams, 60, of Chicago, was given the \$30,000 prize for "the diversity and accessibility of Abrams' music, its striking originality and the composer's equal devotion to craftsmanship and pleasure principle."

Founder of the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians, Abrams was the unanimous selection of the award committee composed of jazz experts from the United States, Britain, Poland and Denmark. (AP)

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut: Singer Michael Bolton received an honorary membership in a Centre for Troubled Youth after telling students that it is never too early to start planning a career.

Bolton, who recently won a Grammy Award as best male vocal for his single, How Am I Supposed to Live Without You, said Monday he would not have achieved success "if I hadn't made the decision as a 15-year-old that this is what I want to do."

The singer told students at the urban youth centre that he got into trouble as a juvenile, but "finally came to a turning point where I decided if I'd continued in the direction I was going, I was going to go nowhere as an individual. (AP)

CHICAGO, Illinois: Oprah Winfrey says her life has become a balancing act as she tries to find time to be host of her television talk show star in her new television series and run her \$20-million production studio.

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, she films her talk show. Wednesday afternoons through Friday evenings, she plays matriarch Mattie Mitchell of Brewster Place set to debut next month. On weekends, she attends to business at her New Harpo Production Studio in Chicago. At night, she gets four, perhaps five hours of sleep.

Convicts to pay cost of jail stay

IOWA CITY, Iowa, April 3. (AP): Federal judges across the country increasingly are ordering criminals not only to pay for their crime in time behind bars, but to pay the cost of their prison stay.

From Jan. 19, 1989, through the end of October, federal judges ordered 254 defendants to pay a monthly fee during their prison sentence, according to the US sentence commission in Washington.

"We see this as merely an equitable and common sense thing to do, said Judge William Watkins Jr. of the 4th US Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Virginia, chairman of the seven-member commission.

"If you have the wherewithal to reimburse taxpayers for the cost of your imprisonment, which you caused through the commission of a criminal act, then you ought to have to pay," Watkins said.

Some civil libertarians, however, are objecting. They say the inmates aren't getting their money's worth because of overcrowded prison conditions.

The commission, created in October 1985 after public outcry over sentencing discrepancies, instituted mandatory sentencing guidelines to be applied uniformly in federal courts.

But judges must use discretion in deciding which convicts will pay for their prison stay. Only those who can afford the monthly payment of \$1,210.05, a month during probation, can be ordered to pay.

Those fees, calculated by the US Bureau of Prisons, cannot be imposed if they would leave the defendant's family destitute or on welfare, said Paul Martin, a commission spokesman.

"It was kind of a very simple thought — select those folks who have the ability to pay for their cost of incarceration or supervision," Martin said. "It's mainly earmarked, of course, for the 'white collar' defendant, someone who has some financial resource."

Of the 45,000 cases that reach federal court every year, few criminals appear to fit the bill.



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World News Roundup

America

Police love triangle: An auxiliary policeman who dated a city policeman for more than 20 years broke down his door and shot him three times in a jealous rage Monday as another auxiliary policeman covered in the apartment, police officials and sources said.

Elaine Hall, 44, a clerk at the 19th Precinct in Manhattan and an auxiliary police officer at the 44th Precinct in the Bronx, was charged with attempted murder in the shooting of officer Thomas Parker, said police spokesman Sgt Nick Vreeland.

Parker, 46, a 17-year veteran of the force, was in stable condition following surgery at Jacobus Hospital, the spokesman said.

The motive for the shooting was believed to be a love triangle, said another police spokeswoman, Sgt. Wrensen. (AP)

Atwater to undergo radiation: Republican Party chairman Lee Atwater entered a New York hospital Monday for intense radiation treatment of a type of brain tumour that experts say is persistent and dangerous.

Mary Malin, chief of staff for the Republican National Committee, said in a statement that doctors had determined Atwater has an astrocytoma, a type of tumour that has "the potential to behave aggressively."

The tumour was diagnosed last month after Atwater collapsed during a speech. (AP)

Court to decide punitive damages: The Supreme Court in Washington on Monday agreed to decide whether huge punitive damage awards in lawsuits may violate constitutional guarantees of fundamental fairness.

The court said it will consider overturning a \$1 million award and three smaller awards to Alabama residents who successfully sued an insurance company for fraud.

The case, of enormous importance to American business, is likely to be decided in 1991. (AP)

Killed with love in his heart: John E. List killed his wife, three children and mother in 1971 "with love in his heart" to save their souls, his attorney argued Monday at the start of the former Sunday school teacher's murder trial.

List, a strictly raised Lutheran, was a "fragmented" product of 19th century ethics who despaired while his family loosened church ties and felt himself failing as a provider, said defence lawyer Elijah L. Miller Jr.

"He was simply not equipped to cope, to deal with the pressure of four times," said Miller. Arrested in Virginia in June, List is charged with first-degree murder in the deaths of his wife, mother, daughter and two sons at his Westfield mansion Nov. 9, 1971. (AP)

Dies before mom can repay him: A man who donated one of his kidneys seven years ago to save his mother's life died before she could pay him back Monday with a bone marrow transplant in Chicago.

Hilary Mitchell, 37, who had been unable to work as a truck driver since contracting leukaemia, was scheduled to receive the bone marrow from his mother, Ernestine, 56.

But Mitchell was unable to hang on for the potentially life-saving procedure. He died at 11:25 pm (03:25 GMT) Sunday, said nursing co-ordinator Ann Jagiella of the University of Chicago hospitals. (AP)

More women opting for sterilisation: Nearly one in every six American women in the normal childbearing age group has been surgically sterilised as a method of birth control, a government report said in Washington.

The results of the National Centre for Health Statistics Study indicates that nearly as many women 15 to 44 opt for sterilisation as choose to use the birth control pill. Figures on abortion were not included. The study, which provides the most recent contraceptive data available, found that 16.6 per cent of those women interviewed had been sterilised, while 18.5 per cent used the pill. (AP)

Bradley seeks re-election: Sen. Bill Bradley has announced that he will seek re-election, quashing speculation about a 1992 presidential bid by saying he planned to represent New Jersey for the full six-year term.

A poll of Democratic state chairmen from throughout the nation recently put Bradley, 46, at the top of their list for the presidential nomination in 1992. Bradley, however, said Monday he wants to make his contribution representing New Jersey.

Bradley, a Rhodes scholar from Denison who played basketball for Princeton University and the New York Knicks, is seen as one northeastern who would be acceptable in more conservative regions. (AP)

Cholesterol relief: Cholesterol-obsessed people now may find at least partial relief, with researchers Monday reporting that chickens given a prescription drug lay eggs with less harmful cholesterol. The drug, lovastatin (normally used in people to lower their cholesterol levels and so reduce heart attack risks) lowered the amounts of the fatty stuff in eggs from 213 milligrams per egg to 168, Purdue University scientists reported.

The greatest reductions in cholesterol were recorded among hens given the highest doses of lovastatin over the nine-day test period. (Kuna)

Stop glorifying alcohol: Congress may ban broadcast advertising of beer and wine if the broadcast industry doesn't stop glorifying alcohol on its own, six congressmen warned at the industry's annual convention.

"We're not just putting you on notice," said Oklahoma Congressman Michael Synar, one of six lawmakers who participated in a panel discussion at the National Association of Broadcasters Convention on Sunday.

The lawmakers stressed that alcohol is a drug, and warned that alcohol advertisements are not protected by the US constitution protecting free speech. (AP)

Dynamite found buried in backyard: Two women unearthed more than 60 sticks of old dynamite in their back yard and police evacuated a two-block area for several hours until the bomb squad could remove the highly unstable explosive in San Francisco.

They dynamite, discovered by Melinda Costello about 1.30 pm Sunday, was in a rusted metal chest and had no identifying marks. Police said it was not immediately apparent how long it had been buried.

Costello, who has lived in the house for more than five years, said the dynamite was in a plastic bag and was wet on top. She said she unwrapped one of the sticks and found the crystallized substance inside. (AP)

Kilauea threatens community: Lava from Kilauea volcano is threatening a subdivision of 83 homes in the coastal town of Kalapana, and authorities ordered most of the residents to evacuate. The slow-moving flow was half a mile (a kilometre) from Kalapana gardens subdivision on Monday morning. A lava flow in 1986 destroyed dozens of homes in the same area.

Hawaii county civil defence administrator Harry Kim ordered residents in 50 of the houses to evacuate by nightfall and placed the town on alert, meaning residents in about 150 homes could be ordered to evacuate within 72 hours. (AP)

Degas painting: A painting by Degas entitled "Degas en Gilet Vert", a self-portrait, sold at Christie's auction in London on Monday for £1.7 million. (Reuters wirephoto)



Argentines mark the eighth anniversary of the Argentine invasion of British-ruled Falkland Islands on Monday in Buenos Aires. (Reuters wirephoto)

Falkland
Argentines claim

BUENOS AIRES, April 3. (Reuters) Argentines still want the Falkland Islands, eight years after they fought and lost a war with Britain over the south Atlantic territory, but they are willing to recover the islands through peaceful means.

Speaking on the eighth anniversary of the April 2, 1982 Argentine invasion of the Falklands, Defence Minister Humberto Romero said yesterday that the government of President Carlos Menem wanted to resolve the dispute peacefully.

"More has been accomplished through peaceful methods than was achieved with forceful actions," he said at a memorial service for the 1,000 servicemen killed in the 10-week war.

Army Chief of Staff General Martin Bonnet also made a speech marking the anniversary of the invasion of the British-ruled islands, which Argentines know as the Malvinas.

"On April 2, 1982, the sovereignty claim over the Malvinas Islands, carried out through peaceful methods for many years, took a military form to produce something really beyond our understanding," he said.

Argentina and Britain restored full diplomatic relations in February after a speedy fence-mending campaign launched by Menem shortly after he took office in July.

All restrictions between the two countries on commerce, finance and transportation were lifted in October, a move that Menem's government hopes will help Argentina's foreign trade.



President George Bush addresses broadcasters at the Georgia World Congress Centre in Atlanta on Monday during the National Association of Broadcasters' annual convention. The President asked the broadcasters to support TV Marti. (Reuters wirephoto)

TV Marti signals
Electronic war

BARACOA, Cuba, April 3. (AP) For the past several months, a squad of Cuban military pilots have been on 24-hour alert for the attack of an invisible enemy. Last week, the first assault came.

The United States started sending TV Marti signals toward Cuba. The signal has carried mostly replays of old sports events and comedy shows, but the Cuban government regards it as a deadly serious offensive.

"This is a war; they have begun it," said Lt Col Thais Martinez, gesturing toward the United States as he spoke yesterday to foreign journalists at Baracoa air base here, a half-hour drive from Havana.

About 40 yards (metres) away stood two Soviet-made helicopters, key elements in the anti-TV Marti defence system.

The helicopters take off as soon as TV Marti begins to penetrate Cuban air space. Apparently with the help of on-board transmitters, the choppers are able to interfere with the signal.

Martinez is pleased with the results. "Everything has been covered," he said, contending that TV Marti's signal has been almost completely unable to reach Cuban TV sets for more than a few minutes.

The work of the helicopters is supplemented by two tall TV antennas in Havana, also with jamming capability.

Africa

Kenyan dissident vanishes: A prominent Kenyan dissident, Mwakuru Ng'ang'a, vanished from his home last week and has been missing for four days, his wife said Monday, adding she feared for his safety at the hands of President Daniel arap Moi's security forces.

She appealed to the public for help in tracing her husband, saying she feared he would be detained without trial by Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi's security forces for the third time in eight years.

"Hewas absolutely sure that it was merely a matter of time before they came back for him," Lucy Mwakuru Ng'ang'a said in a statement issued through her lawyers. (UPI)

Information minister sacked: Minister of Information and Broadcasting Wamui Kanja lost his job Monday, two weeks after he started a row over the violent death of Kenya's Foreign Minister, Robert Ouko.

Official Voice of Kenya radio announced Kanja's dismissal, but gave no reasons for it.

Kanja, in his 60s, caused uproar at the opening of parliament two weeks ago, when he used a debate to compare Ouko's death to a famous case of political assassination from 1975. (UPI)

Prince Aya to visit Kenya: Prince Aya, the second son of Japan's Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, will make a two-week tour of Kenya and Madagascar this month to conduct research on zoology, the Imperial Household Agency announced Tuesday.

The agency said Aya, who now studies at Oxford University, will leave London April 10 for a five-day tour of Kenya.

The prince will visit the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi, the Kenyan national museum and other places of interest, the agency said. (UPI)

African leaders greedy, corrupt: Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni said on Monday many other African leaders were greedy, corrupt, hypocritical and were turning their backs on the poor.

"Hypocrisy, abuse of power and office and greed for wealth by the leaders have become the order of the day," Museveni said in a speech at the start of a conference in Kampala on the role of the ombudsman in Africa.

"It is the duty of the African leadership to show a common social concern for the poor majority whom they lead," he said in the speech, which was read for him.

Ombudsmen are special government investigators charged with defending individual citizens from abuse by officials. (Reuters)

Renamo rebels welcome peace talks: The rebels of the Mozambican National Resistance on Monday welcomed a government offer for immediate talks and reaffirmed they were ready to start negotiations "at all levels," the Portuguese news agency Lusa reported.

According to Lusa, monitored in Lisbon, Faustino, Mateus, chief rebel delegate in Nairobi, Kenya, said the peace process was no longer blocked by questions of principle.

Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano said Saturday in an interview with Portuguese state television that contacts were being made with the rebels, who are also known by their Portuguese acronym Renamo, to set a venue and date for first direct peace talks to end the Southern African nation's 13-year civil war. (AP)

Angola cholera toll, 60: Cholera has killed 60 people in the southern Angolan province of Namibe since the beginning of the year, Angola's state news agency Angop reported Monday.

According to the Angop report monitored in Lisbon, 1,200 cases of cholera were registered in the mainly desert province bordering on Namibia.

The chief causes of the epidemic were poor sanitary and garbage disposal facilities in the provincial capital, also called Namibe, Angop said. (AP)

Latin America

Ortega optimistic about peace: Outgoing President Daniel Ortega predicts a two-day summit with four other Central American leaders will bring good news for regional peace.

The top item on the agenda was demobilizing the US-backed Contras, who have waged a 10-year war against Nicaragua's leftist Sandinistas, who were voted out of office in February.

At the meeting began Monday at the beach resort of Montelimar, President Rafael Leonardo Callejas of Honduras said the Contra's top military commander had agreed to disband the forces before Nicaragua's new government takes office on April 25.

In another development, leftist Salvadoran guerrillas and that country's rightist government agreed to meet Wednesday in Geneva to renew talks under the mediation of UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Ortega said talks at the first session "were wide-ranging and very good. There was ample discussion about the demobilization of the Contras and the democratization of El Salvador and Guatemala." He refused to go into details. (AP)

Fighting 'imperialism': A leftist group said it was fighting "imperialism in Central America" when it ambushed a bus and wounded eight US Air Force servicemen.

"We condemn with all our revolutionary force the Central American occupation by the Yankee empire, that has shed the blood of our people from Panama to Guatemala," the Morazan National Liberation Front said in a statement published Monday by the daily newspaper El Tiempo.

"With this action, taken by patriotic Morazan commandos against the occupying troops, we remind our people and the people of the world that we continue to fight against everyone who despoils our fatherland."

Honduras' top military officers, meanwhile, vowed to capture the snipers who fired at the US servicemen on Saturday and said a nationwide manhunt was under way. (AP)

Poindeexter jury deliberates: The criminal case of John Poindeexter, a top adviser in the administration of US president Ronald Reagan, is in the hands of a jury in the last major trial stemming from the Iran-Contra affair.

Deliberations began on Monday by the eight women and four men of the federal jury. They will decide whether Poindeexter is guilty or innocent on five felony charges flowing from the cover-up of the 1985-86 plan to sell arms to Iran and then divert the profits to the Nicaraguan Contra rebels despite a congressional ban on such aid.

The legality of the Iran-Contra plan is not at issue. Only the alleged concealment of it from the Congress. The month-long case was a retooling of the Iran-Contra saga which first captured public attention in November 1986. (Reuters)

Police and families clash: Police and families of political prisoners clashed inside the capital's high court building on Monday in the most violent protest since Chile returned to democracy three weeks ago, eyewitnesses said.

Police said about 30 people were arrested after the protesters, many of them women, battled with police called in to reinforce the court building's security staff.

Several demonstrators, who were demanding the release of 400 prisoners still held on politically related charges, chained themselves to the handrail of a staircase in the city-centre building before police arrived.

The violence began when judges were jostled and screamed at by the protesters and called in police to protect them.

Eyewitnesses said several women beat police with their shoes. Police hit back with truncheons, and at least two demonstrators were treated by first aid workers. (Reuters)



Contras to disarm

Contra rebels living in Honduran camps will formally hand in their weapons on April 18, a week before President-elect Violeta Chamorro takes office in Nicaragua, a Contra spokesman said Monday.

Contra spokesman Alajandro Acevedo released a statement in Tegucigalpa saying the demobilization "will proceed next April 18 with the formal handing over of weapons in Yamales." Contra leaders agreed March 23 to demobilize their forces.

Acevedo said the Contra fighters would hand over Soviet-made AK-47 rifles, 80 mm machine guns, 60-82- and 81-mm mortars, and RPG-7 and RPG-2 grenade launchers.

Acevedo said the Contras will demand a simultaneous ceasefire on the part of Nicaragua's popular Sandinista Army, verified by observers from the United Nations and the Organization of American States.

In the picture, a nineteen year old Contra combatant and her six-month-old baby start the long trek home to Nicaragua. (Reuters wirephoto)

US invasion
was bloodier

Noriega defence claims

MIAMI, April 3. (AP) Manuel Antonio Noriega's defence put a former US Attorney General on the witness stand yesterday and claimed the invasion of Panama was bloodier and more destructive than the government has admitted.

Following the court hearing, Noriega reportedly told two representatives of a private group he negotiated with the US government up until the invasion.

Noriega claimed Washington was willing to drop the drug charges against him, but unleashed its military might after he refused to allow Panamanian bases to be used as staging grounds for military intervention in Nicaragua, the representatives said.

During the court hearing, the testimony, which included videotapes of the invasion and the arrest of the deposed Panamanian leader, was aimed at convincing US district judge William Hoelwer that Noriega should be freed to demonstrate that the government's executive branch is subject to the rule of law.

"Nothing General Noriega is accused of is equivalent to what happened, to the force that was used to bring him to the United States," Defence Attorney Jon May said. "We have to recognize that the methods we use sometimes make us worse than the people we are trying to arrest."

The prosecution avoided discussions of US conduct during the Dec 20 invasion, with Deputy Solicitor General William Bryson calling the issue "legally irrelevant." He said there was

ample legal precedent showing the court could maintain jurisdiction over Noriega whether or not the government violated his rights.

Noriega surrendered to US authorities a few days after the invasion.

For the defence, former US Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who served under presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson in the 1960s, was put on the stand as a representative of an ad hoc group called the independent commission of inquiry on the US invasion of Panama.

Clark, who toured Panama in January, is one of the most prominent members of the private group, which also includes author Graham Greene.

Clark was questioned about the number of civilian deaths in Panama, which the defence department has put at between 200 and 300.

"I heard of estimates ranging as high as 7,000," Clark told the judge. "I still believe it will be at least a thousand, and probably several thousand. — you never will know the absolute number."

Before Clark's testimony, Defence Attorney Frank Rubino presented videotape of invasion coverage from major US networks and Panamanian television, much of it aimed at showing the widespread destruction caused by the invasion.

Throughout the tape Noriega sat impassively in his general's uniform at the defence table, except for a twitch once when the film showed him in captivity aboard a US-bound military transport plane.

UK, US reject UN body

Unesco dealt a blow

PARIS, April 3. (Reuters) Britain is expected to announce this week it will not rejoin the UN cultural agency Unesco if it left five years ago, Unesco sources said yesterday.

The British announcement will be followed later this month by an even more strongly-worded rejection of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation by the United States, the sources said.

This will be a major blow to Unesco's hopes of guaranteeing its survival by attracting back two countries that had until the mid-1980s provided crucial finance for the UN body.

Washington and London, which took some 30 per cent of the agency's budget away when they left, say Unesco Director-General Federico Mayor has failed to reform Unesco and express doubts over his leadership.

Other sources in the 161-nation agency said some of its biggest remaining contributors, including Japan, Canada and Australia, were looking closely at Mayor and asking questions about their membership.

LANCET

Lee meets DPP chief

TAIPEI, April 3, (UPI): President Lee Teng-hui yesterday met for the first time with the chairman of Taiwan's main opposition party in a crucial step toward resolving growing unrest over the pace of political reform.

Officials of the ruling Kuomintang (KMT), which President Lee heads, and the opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) described the meeting to discuss an upcoming national affairs conference on political reform as "quite satisfactory."

It was the first time that the head of the KMT has met with the opposition party, which was established in September 1986 and has 20,000 members and many more supporters.

President Lee set a timetable of two years to resolve Taiwan's problems after he is sworn in to his first full six-year term on May 20, Tsing Yien-Si, organizer of the upcoming conference, said.

"President Lee stressed that the most important thing is political stability," Tsing said in a press conference. "Then we can deal with the issues step by step. President Lee believes this can be accomplished within two years."

DPP chairman Huang Hsin-chieh presented to the President a list of four demands, including setting a timetable for reform and an amnesty for political prisoners.

He was unavailable for comment immediately after the meeting, but his secretary-general Chang Chun-Hong said the DPP was "quite satisfied with President Lee's responses to their demands."

President Lee announced a national affairs conference and invited the DPP to sit down for talks after criticism against the government's slow pace of reforms swelled in the run-up to presidential elections March 21-22.

College students and workers joined the opposition to call for an overhaul of the national assembly, Taiwan's electoral college which is dominated by mainland China-elected deputies in power for the last 40 years, and the abolition of a set of temporary provisions which override the constitution and give the president ultimate power.

Hawke names cabinet

SYDNEY, April 3, (AP): Prime Minister Bob Hawke, preparing to begin a fourth term, named eight new ministers in the biggest cabinet reshuffle in eight years.

Meanwhile, Andrew Peacock resigned today as leader of the opposition coalition, following defeat at the hands of Hawke's Labour Party in the March 24 general election. The 148-seat lower house chooses the government.

Final election results are still not in, but it appeared Labour would win 76 seats to the opposition coalition's 70, with two seats going to independents.

Peacock, 51, was replaced as Liberal Party head by former shadow treasurer John Hewson, who had been widely expected to take the helm.

Peacock, who has twice failed to win the prime ministership, will serve as Hewson's deputy.

In the cabinet moves, Paul Keating was reappointed as treasurer and was also named deputy prime minister. Gareth Evans remained as foreign minister and John Burton kept the portfolio for minister of industry, technology and commerce.

Kim Beazley, the former Labour defence minister, moved to transport and communications.

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Drugs are as devastating as atomic bomb: Andreotti

NICOSIA, April 3, (AP): Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti yesterday warned 436 Parliamentarians from 91 countries that "drugs are at least as devastating and destructive as the atomic bomb."

He was addressing the Inter-Parliamentary Union conference which is meeting to discuss combating drug trafficking and adapting to new technology for sustainable economic development.

Andreotti thanked the conference for accepting Italy's proposal for making drugs the main item of their week-long agenda.

"If we do not unify the wills and resources of all countries to face this disaster, the joy of having freed humanity from the risks of a Third World War and nuclear holocaust may turn out to be illusory," Andreotti said.

"For both present and future generations drugs are at least as devastating

and destructive as the atomic bomb. We must spare the world from this biblical plague without limiting our sacrifices and initiatives," he added.

The conference was the first such gathering attended by delegates from Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and Hungary since the collapse of Eastern Europe's one-party communist governments.

Andreotti and other keynote speakers on the opening day declared that

international developments had made the 113-member union's role more important.

In addition to the prearranged two agenda items, on drugs and sustainable development, the conference chose a third item from a list of nine proposals submitted by different delegations.

It voted overwhelmingly for an omnibus proposal by the host country, Cyprus "on peace and security in the Mediterranean region in the light of

developments in Europe and the new spirit prevailing internationally."

This included the problems of divided Cyprus, the Middle East, Jewish settlement in occupied Arab territories and civil-war ravaged Lebanon.

The adoption of the Cypriot proposal was opposed by Pakistan which argued that it should not be discussed in the absence of Turkey. Turkey invaded and helped create a

Turkish Cypriot breakaway state in the northern one-third of the island in 1974 after a coup d'etat aimed at uniting the island with Greece.

Turkey, the only nation to recognise the Turkish Cypriot state, is boycotting the conference because it does not recognise the government of President Vassiliou, the Greek Cypriot leader.

The IPU voted yesterday to accept Afghanistan and Laos as members but suspended Benin.



A woman walks past a banner advertising a play in Edendale black township on Monday. More than 50 people have been killed and thousands left homeless during factional fighting over the past week. (Reuters wirephoto)

Troops to halt Natal clashes

JOHANNESBURG, April 3, (AP): Heavily-armed soldiers and police in armoured vehicles began deploying today after the government ordered a major crack down on black factional fighting that has cost hundreds of lives.

Police said reinforcements were moving into the shattered Edendale Valley in the southeastern province of Natal to halt clashes between rival Zulu tribal factions. Police Major Piet Kitching said at least 55 people had died and hundreds were injured in the past week.

"A police report today said 13 more people had been killed, mostly in black factional fighting in other parts of the country, but gave few details."

Military officials said combat units were being moved in to Natal and other regions, but declined to give numbers or other details. Police in Edendale said army troops would set up barricades and conduct patrols to stop the fighting.

More than 12,000 refugees, mainly women and children, had fled their homes in the Edendale area and were being sheltered at camps, police said. Rival mobs had burned hundreds of houses, they said.

South Africa's financial markets were hit by the growing unrest. The index on the Johannesburg stock exchange plunged 3.3 per cent today and dealers said clients were worried about the deteriorating political situation.

The pro-apartheid opposition Conservative Party denounced De Klerk's moves today saying it proved the government was pushing the nation into "anarchy and chaos." The opposition group opposes De Klerk's attempts to end apartheid and scrap white-minority rule.

'Violence must end' Mandela pleads

IMBALI, South Africa, April 3, (AP): African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela stood on a muddy hilltop and pleaded for peace yesterday, while members of rival Zulu factions watched each other guardedly from opposite ridges.

"This violence must end," Mandela told about 200 ANC supporters in the township wracked by a black power struggle since 1983.

The main combatants are ANC supporters and backers of the Inkatha Party headed by Zulu homeland leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

Since heavy fighting began four years ago, more than 4,000 blacks have died in Natal province. Fierce battles of the past week have killed at least 53 people, injured hundreds and caused 13,000 residents to flee.

In Edendale valley, nights are filled with gunshots, screams and the explosion of petrol bombs. The morning reveals bodies lying in the streets and fields, houses on fire and women and children burying along the roads carrying hastily wrapped belongings.

Mandela travelled to the heart of the so-called "Valley of Death" to tell residents the ANC and Inkatha should be working together.

"We are not fighting Inkatha. We are fighting apartheid and the forces of oppression," he told a crowd of 2,000 who shoved into a church hall in Edendale.

He repeated the message in Imbali, where local residents said four men died the night before in fighting.

Hundreds of ANC supporters lined the ridges of the hills around the township to glimpse Mandela's motorcade on the opposite hill.

They said they were afraid to pass through the Inkatha section of town to hear Mandela's speech. As he talked to the few hundred who tramped across muddy fields to see him, the crowd stirred and pointed to Inkatha men gathering on an opposite hill.

Mandela repeated his desire to meet with Buthelezi, an old friend despite their political differences.

But reaction to the government moves was generally positive. The liberal opposition Democratic party said the security forces had to end the violence.

De Klerk told parliament in Cape Town yesterday he had ordered the security forces to launch a major drive to end unrest in black urban townships and rural areas such as Natal. He said the army had been ordered to end the unrest.

The security measures announced by De Klerk include stepped up arrests of suspected troublemakers, setting up of extra courts to handle unrest cases, and involvement of army units in policing duties.

The African National Congress, the main black opposition group, pulled out of planned April 11 meetings with the government to protest police firing on a protest last week in a black township near Sebokeng.

Pentagon to release Stealth secrets

WASHINGTON, April 3, (AP): The Defence Department is releasing long-classified information about the Delta-winged F-117A Stealth fighter jet, kept secret for years and finally used in combat during the US invasion of Panama.

Responding to requests from reporters, officials scheduled a briefing today that was expected to provide pictures, cost and performance information about the air force's radar-eluding aircraft.

The cost of the programme has never been made public.

The so-called "Stealth" technology refers to design and materials that reduce the ability of enemy radar to detect the craft.

This can be achieved by using designs that avoid the direct impact of radar, and by using composite materials that can absorb the radar's energy.

Although the plane reportedly has been operational since 1983, the Pentagon refused to even acknowledge that it existed until November 1988.

At that time, only one photograph of the jet was released. Aviation experts contended the picture was carefully selected to conceal the real dimensions of the plane's radical, swept-back form.

The air force used the super-secret plane in combat for the first time during the invasion of Panama last Dec 20, to bomb a field outside barracks of the Panamanian defence forces.

Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams said the fighter-bomber was used to "disorient, stun and confuse" the PDF so it could not react to the US paratroopers dropping onto the nearby Rio Hato airfield.

The fighter was designed to penetrate any radar defence and bomb targets before enemy forces can react.

The plane has stark, angular facets in contrast to the smoother, bat-winged form of the controversial and costly B-2 Stealth bomber.

The F-117A fulfills a non-nuclear role that is held by the B-2, a \$530-million bomber still in development.

Lockheed Corp. was scheduled to deliver the last of its 59 planes this year. Two squadrons of the planes reportedly are operational at Tonopah test range airfield in Nevada, where they have been carefully screened from public view.

For most of their existence, the planes have flown at night to avoid detection by Soviet satellites.

More recently, the plane has flown during the daytime and photographs showing its faceted form and swallow tail have been published in technical journals and magazines.

Bombs rock Greek cities

ELA, May 1st claim responsibility

ATHENS, April 3, (Reuters): A series of bomb explosions rocked Athens and the northern city of Salonika today injuring a police officer and causing damage to government and union buildings ahead of national elections on Sunday.

An anonymous caller told newspapers the extreme-left guerrilla groups Revolutionary Popular Struggle (ELA) and May 1st placed the bombs. It was the first time the two groups jointly took responsibility for bomb attacks.

The time-bombs went off outside the Economy Ministry, the General Confederation of Greek Workers and the Federation of Greek Industries in central Athens. One policeman patrolling the area was taken to hospital with cuts from broken glass.

Another bomb caused serious damage to the buildings of the Federation of Northern Greek Industries in Salonika.

ELA and May 1st have waged

a bombing campaign in recent years against government buildings, police stations and private businesses. May 1st guerrillas shot dead a public prosecutor in January 1989.

The bomb explosions were the latest in a series of violent incidents in the run-up to national elections on April 8. On Sunday a man was shot dead in clashes between supporters of rival political parties on the island of Crete.

Last Tuesday time bombs destroyed a number of cars belonging to diplomats of Eastern European countries.

The leader of Greece's conservative New Democracy Party accused the rival Socialists yesterday of hacking organised violence prior to the April 8 general elections.

Constantine Mitsotakis spoke a day after shots fired from a passing car killed a Socialist supporter and injured four people in Iraklion, Crete.

Yesterday, a bomb demolished two vehicles in Iraklion. No injuries were reported.

The bomb was planted in a parking lot near the home of Vangelis Kefaloyannis, whose brother, Manolis, is a ranking New Democracy official.

Neither damaged car belonged to the Kefaloyannis family, spokesman said on condition of not being identified.

In Athens, a fire-bomb slightly damaged the suburban political headquarters of George Birmimis, a candidate of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement headed by former Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu.

Sunday's violence erupted when Socialist supporters set up barricades in an attempt to stop conservatives approaching a pre-election rally led by Mitsotakis.

Papandreu described Mitsotakis' statements as "inflammatory" and "morally unacceptable." He spoke in a television interview from his home.



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18/5/1990	Starlite Theatre Entertainment City	Valedictory function & musical night

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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

IMAGINATION is more important than knowledge —
Albert Einstein, German-born physicist (1879-1955).

OPINION

Saddam's response
to Israel praised

APPARENTLY, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has been "humble" in his response to the Israeli threat as he said that he would destroy half of Israel if it carries out any aggression on Iraq.

Obviously, Israel knows with whom it is dealing and also knows men who translate their words into action. Further, Israel is aware that the present situation is unlike the one when it attacked the Iraqi nuclear plant in 1983 when Iraq was busy in the war. That aggression has certainly left an indelible mark on the Iraqi thinking and it will not pass without Iraq redressing the issue — whether in the near or distant future.

Saddam Hussein is the man who appreciates that the sharpness of the knife has many features. It shaves men's beards and at the same time cuts when used improperly. Saddam Hussein certainly supports "soft shaving" if good relations are the aim. But, shaving becomes too dangerous and deadly against those who attempt to misuse the concept of good relations.

Israel realises that big powers become proud of the victorious at the end as results ultimately matter for these big powers. The very fact that President Saddam had borne in mind when he led his country to victory.

The results of wars have either black or white colours and are created by leaders who know how to create victory. Death is the same, whether it comes through defeat or victory. But, it is sweeter for Saddam when it comes with victory and this is what happened when he led his people to victory against those who tried to invade his country.

Israel realises with whom it is dealing now — a people and a leadership who have not yet taken off their military uniform, at the same time speaking of prosperity and progress. These people want to see their country Iraq, which once fed 50 million people and compared thought and creativity with gold, retaining its cultural and intellectual status.

We say this in spite of the fact that we in the Arab world have always been looking for peace, we do not want Israel and others to miscalculate their positions against Iraq, simply because we do not want to see more bloodshed and fighting.

Iraq wants to restore back its civilisation and achieve prosperity like a highly modern country.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

Punjab bill fails
Government
embarrassedBy Thomas Abraham
Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister V.P. Singh's government will take quite some time to live down the stunning embarrassment it suffered in the Lok Sabha Friday when it could not get the 64th constitution amendment bill through because it failed to muster even a simple majority in the house.

The bill, seeking to facilitate the extension of president's rule in Punjab by another six months because conditions are not conducive for holding of assembly elections, had already been passed by the Rajya Sabha.

For the ruling National Front, it appeared to be a clear case of self-inflicted humiliation because, despite the issuance of a three-line whip, several senior ministers themselves were absent during the voting at the consideration stage of the bill.

Those absent included Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal, Industry Minister Aji Singh, Railway Minister George Fernandes, Communication Minister K.P. Unnikrishnan and Civil Supplies Minister Nathu Ram Mirdhan, senior leaders like Chandra Shekhar, who earlier in the day had made a very critical speech, were also not seen in the house at the time of the voting.

Under the Indian constitution, any amendment to the constitution can be affected when the bill to that effect is passed by both houses of Parliament with a "majority of the total membership of the house and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting."

On Friday, only 241 members from all sides were present when the bill was put to vote, despite the fact that all the mainline parties, including the Congress, had agreed to support it. As a first condition, the bill needed the support of a simple majority of 273 members in view of its total strength of 543.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1581 — England's Queen Elizabeth I knights Sir Francis Drake.

1611 — Denmark's King Christian IV declares war on Sweden.

1618 — Cardinal Richelieu is ordered into exile in Avignon for intrigues with France's Queen mother Marie de Medici.

1660 — England's King Charles II issues declaration of Breda, promising religious tolerance.

1827 — Note is sent by Russia, France and Britain to Sultan of Turkey urging truce in war with Greece.

1844 — Germany occupies South-West Africa, Togoland and Cameroons.

1919 — Soviet republic is established in Bavaria.

1933 — US Navy Dingible Akron falls on to Atlantic Ocean off New Jersey, taking 73 lives.

1942 — Japanese naval forces sink three British warships in Bay of Bengal during World War II.

1959 — Ivory Coast signs series of agreements with Niger, Upper Volta and Dahomey to form Sahel-Benin Union.

1964 — Archbishop Makarios abrogates 1960 treaty between Greece, Turkey and Cyprus, and heavy fighting erupts in northwest Cyprus.

1986 — Israel formally asks for access to United Nations war crimes commission file on former secretary-general Kurt Waldheim.

1989 — At least five people are killed when rockets slam into residential neighbourhoods of Kabul, Afghanistan.

Spectre of Stasi being put to rest

E. Germans to screen deputies

EAST BERLIN, (Reuters): Forty years after countless old Nazis tiptoed unpunished into a new Stalinist order, East Germans fear old Stalinists are slithering into their new democracy.

An uproar over suspected links of new parliamentarians to the former Stasi security police recalls the post war challenge of de-Nazification which East Germany virtually ignored for practical and political reasons.

Screen

Parties anxious to build a credible democracy after the 1989 fall of the communist dictatorship agreed on Thursday to create a parliamentary commission to screen all 400 deputies for past collaboration with the Stasi police.

"What we have here is a problem similar to 1945," said Sebastian Pflugbeil of New Forum, the Reform Movement that mobilised demonstrations across the country on Thursday for a crackdown on old Stasi agents in all walks of life.

"We must come to terms with our Stasi past across the board. We also don't want mayors who once worked for the Stasi. We don't want our children to be taught by ex-Stasi," Pflugbeil said in a newspaper interview.

No such moral confrontation with a painful heritage was attempted or permitted by the Moscow-sponsored Stalinists who founded the East German state in 1949.

Vast numbers of low-ranking party hacks and informers who greased the wheels of Hitler's regime quietly retained their post under communism. These included such pillars of the community as mayors, teachers, judges and policemen.

Nazi

Scarce technical and professional skills proved a ticket from the Nazi past into the communist future. More than 70 per cent of teachers had been Nazi party members, for example.

Keen to bolster propaganda painting East Germany as the first and only German state free of fascism, communist rulers swept their people's Nazi heritage under the rug and denied any moral responsibility for the past.

Those people unable or unwilling to melt into the new system fled to the West — or died in internment camps run by Stalin's dreaded NKVD security police.

Three mass graves containing casualties of those camps have been unearthed in East Germany in recent weeks, a grisly sideshow to the anguished row over the Stasi.

Four decades later, East Germans are grappling with the demons of another fallen totalitarian system — Stalinism — and are determined to prevent its fellow travellers from discreetly prospering in their new democracy.

"The parallel between the immediate postwar era and today is the moral conflict between getting on with building a future and coming to terms with an unpleasant past," a Western diplomat said.

"You can't compare the Stasi with the Nazis. They're very different beasts. The Nazis caused infinitely more suffering in 12 years than the Stasi did in 40," he said.

Purge

"But the ensuing challenge for East Germans is similar — to what extent can you purge old Stalinists from public life without leaving yourself short of people to run the country?"

The now defunct Stasi, the omniscient praetorian guard of Stalinist rule, had 85,000 agents and fielded an estimated 109,000 informers in every walk of life.

Anti-Stasi clamour huffing East Germany underscores a deep emotional need to settle scores with those whose snooping warped and ruined



De Maiziere...clearing name of Stasi affiliation. (Reuters wirephoto)

countless lives.

East Germany's top three politicians — Christian Democrat and prospective prime minister Lothar De Maiziere, Communist Party chief Gregor Gysi and Social Democrat Ibrahim Bohme — now appear to have cleared their names over allegations they were Stasi informers.

But the uproar has drowned out voices which point out the distinction between people who willingly betrayed acquaintances to the Stasi and those who informed only under duress.

Hundreds of thousands of civil servants — teachers, judges, regional administrators and the like

— had to compromise with the Stasi to perform their jobs. Information changed hands even if no paid informers were involved.

Most of those public employees remain in office. Should they be tossed out in a "de-Stalification" campaign as well?

The moral conflict may defy solution.

"The communists left behind a wrecked state in more ways than one. It seems the country's economic exhaustion will be more easily overcome than the moral flaw of a land where no one could be sure if his friend was a secret tattler for the oppressors," the West German weekly Die Zeit commented.

Mugabe gets another mandate

HARARE, (Reuters): Zimbabweans have given President Robert Mugabe a new mandate to lead them hut, though he has held power for a decade, many of his people are unsure where he is taking them.

He is still the steely Marxist-Leninist of 1980, bent on turning his country into the kind of socialist one-party state which has collapsed all over Eastern Europe.

Or is he now a mellowed pragmatist, a reluctant convert to the drive for economic liberalisation which is replacing state control throughout Africa?

Answer

The answer may well be both. Zimbabwean political scientist Dr Jonathan Moyo believes Mugabe, leader since independence in 1980, is pursuing two contradictory policies at once.

"On the one hand, there is a clear but slow policy of liberalising the economy. On the other hand, there is an equally clear and rather fast policy of de-liberalising national politics," Moyo wrote last week in the weekly Financial Gazette.

"The bottom line is that it is dangerous to seek economic liberalisation under conditions of monopoly politics."

Moyo sees Zimbabwe moving closer to the political model provided by non-socialist, even right-wing one-party states such as Zambia, Malawi and Kenya, where capitalism can thrive but political opposition is suppressed.

Kempton Makumbe, like Moyo a lecturer at the University of Zimbabwe, says Mugabe seems to be copying the malpractices of other African countries and losing the values for which Mugabe's



Mugabe: enigma

guerrilla soldiers fought against white minority rule.

Mugabe, a man of steely intellect and puritan tastes, often seems puzzled and appalled by the shift

in values which has left many people hostile to his kind of Marxist-Leninist socialism.

Despite his personal hostility to capitalism, he has heeded the advice of Finance Minister Bernard Chidzero and agreed to urge more foreign investment in Zimbabwe. Cautious trade liberalisation is next on the agenda.

Deeply marked by his Jesuit education, Mugabe sees the political struggle against South Africa in stark moral terms.

Like Kenya's President Moi, he is an ex-schoolmaster with a firm belief he knows what is best for his people.

He quickly claimed his election victory as a mandate to legislate for a one-party state, a long-held aim which had been unattainable until now because of constitutional barriers.

"If we feel that the moment has come for us to establish a one party state we will do so, and the people will support us," he declared. "It is not a Mugabe thing. Our congress agreed on this policy."

Vote

"We can use this vote as a mandate and establish a one-party state, or give the people another chance first," he said.

Mugabe argues that a multi-party system is wrong for Africa and says: "The people want the oneness of one family." For most of its first decade, Zimbabwe was bedevilled by conflict between Mugabe's Zanu-PF and Joshua Nkomo's PF-Zapu.

Since their agreement to merge in December 1987, the country has seen an upturn in economic growth and an end to low-level guerrilla warfare in Matabeleland in which hundreds died.

Leaflets war opens Palestinian rifts

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (Reuters): A war of leaflets has erupted in the West Bank and Gaza Strip where a stagnating Arab uprising has opened rifts among Palestinian factions which co-operated on the ground for the last two years.

The "war" reflects debate over the direction of the 27-month-old revolt that has gained world attention but failed to break Israel's iron grip on the territories on force the Jewish state to the negotiating table.

Violence

Muslim and Marxist radicals in the Islamic resistance movement Hamas and the Syrian-backed Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) are demanding greater violence and an escalation of armed struggle against Israel.

Their increasingly strident pamphlets and graffiti challenge the authority of the PLO-backed unified leadership of the uprising, the underground steering committee which issues regular instructions for strikes and protest actions.

"We are in a mess. The attempt by the PFLP to act alone in certain places is exposing the intifada (uprising) to real dangers," said Radwan Abu Ayash, a leading supporter of the PLO's mainstream Fatah movement.

He said the radicals failed to understand the limits of the Palestinians' ability to bear greater suffering.

The harshest PFLP and Hamas leaflets were sparked by the willingness of mainstream Palestinian leaders to co-operate with US efforts to hold Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in Cairo.

The PFLP, while still participating in the unified leadership, has begun issuing its own communiques attacking moderate Palestinian leaders and calling for more radical action.

Militants

Masked militants threatened Nablus businessman Said Kenaan, a moderate Fatah supporter, and ransacked his shop last month after newspaper named him as a potential peace negotiator.

Abu Ayash said the fall of Israel's coalition government had put US peace efforts on ice and triggered a radicalisation among Palestinians.

"There is now a very big question mark over the whole peace process. I'm extremely pessimistic about what is happening," he said.

For the first time, the PFLP and the radical Islamic Jihad movement last week jointly enforced a strike in the Bethlehem area in defiance of the unified leadership.

The multitude of rival strike calls has disrupted life in the territories and confused the 1.75 million residents.

PFLP leaflet number three, issued last Friday, attacked the notion that a united Jerusalem should be the capital of both Israel and a Palestinian state, an idea promoted by mainstream nationalist leaders Faisal Hussein and Sari Nusseibeh.

It also called on Israel's 650,000 Arab citizens to join the uprising, whereas the PLO has been careful to limit their role to political and financial support rather than participation.

Hardline

The fundamentalist Hamas, which has never had a good word to say about Palestinian Marxist, singled the PFLP's hardline stance out for praise in its latest leaflet.

Some Palestinians ascribe to sectarian rivalry the gruesome killings of alleged collaborators with Israel in defiance of Fatah orders for restraint.

Israel's Shin Bet security services skillfully exploit the friction, putting out bogus leaflets and spray-painting misleading graffiti in a campaign to discredit Palestinian activists, residents say.

Art Buchwa

Unification
triggers
nerves

THERE are a few people — not many — who are slightly nervous about a unified Germany. These folks suffer from *deja vu* and, while the world has no reason to shiver, we should address their fears.

Feldman, my watch repairman, is certain he knows how the trouble is going to start. He thinks it will be something like this:

It's eight years from today, and Germany is united. Schultz, a former East German bricklayer, and now a prosperous orthodontist, is building a new house at Schnitzel Gardens, which is east of Leipzig.

House

Schultz's architect, Mendelsohn, comes to visit him with the plans. "Schultz, I can get the house on your land but I don't have room for a garage."

"I have to have a garage," Schultz insists. "My new Mercedes-Benz is being delivered in six weeks. Mendelsohn says, 'Look for yourself. Where are we going to build a garage?'"

Schultz studies the plans. "How about here?"

"But that's Poland!"

"It was Germany before it was Poland. The people of Poland stole it from us after World War II. We must be allowed to build German garages on German soil."

Mendelsohn explains, "If we built your garage in Poland, we would be violating the Treaty of Versailles, which states that Germany cannot covet any territory that belonged to somebody else in the year 1919."

Treaty

Schultz says, "A bunch of old men who sold us on signed that treaty. We have a new Germany now, and that Germany permits us to build on any part of the fatherland that we want to."

Mendelsohn tells him, "I'm not suggesting that you are wrong. Admittedly, there are a lot of German-speaking Poles living on the land where we want to build our garage. At the same time, I don't think that Berlin will give us a permit to construct a garage so close to Krakow."

Schultz slams down his fist. "It is not Polish soil. It is German soil. To teach them a lesson, I should put the whole house in Poland, and the garage in Germany."

"They could try to stop you."

"Then Germany must rebuild its air force and its Panzer divisions and have a crash submarine programme. I will not park my car in the driveway to satisfy the scavengers of World War II."

Europe

"If you feel that strongly about it, Schultz," Mendelsohn said, "I'll build the garage in Poland while you are looking."

"I want everyone to be looking. This is my house, this is my garage, this is my land, this is my Europe. Heil real estate."

Mendelsohn responded, "Heil real estate. Now can we talk about the cost of the land we're going to take from Poland?"

"Why should we pay for what was originally ours?" Schultz asks him.

Mendelsohn agrees. "Good point, Schultz. You told me last time to get some estimates for the cost of building a hunting lodge in Czechoslovakia. I have two estimates. One, if Czechoslovakia remains independent, and another if it is annexed to us."

"Just give me the annexation figure. Why would Czechoslovakia stay independent when all our German citizens still live there?"

Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Natal violence
stalls peace

JOHANNESBURG, (Reuters): An upsurge of black warfare in South Africa's troubled province of Natal has stalled a developing political peace process, and raised the spectre of the army being called in to reassert the government's authority.

The politicians say more bloodshed may be inevitable before the government and the African National Congress (ANC) can begin talks aimed at a peaceful transition of power to the black majority.

Clashes

Other black communities across the country have also lurched towards violent conflict, which shows signs of abating.

The clashes have challenged the capacity of the formerly banned and exiled ANC to control its supporters inside the country and question its credentials as South Africa's most powerful black opposition group.

"An old man of the ANC came a dead? Are the youngsters behind them? I think it's quite delicate," said Johannesburg Member of Parliament Peter Soth of the liberal white Democratic Party.

Both whites and blacks have accused each other of stirring unrest and foot-dragging on the rocky road to peace, embarked on earlier this year when President F.W. de Klerk legalised many black political organisations and freed ANC leader Nelson Mandela.

Now both sides may need a pause in the process of change.

The ANC on Saturday shelved exploratory "talks about talks" with Pretoria, blaming police for the killing of 17 black demonstrators in a violent protest in Sebokeng township near Johannesburg last Monday. The talks had been set for April 11.

Some independent analysts said the ANC's leadership, by appearing to headlong into talks, may have outstayed its welcome.

ANC officials in Zambia have said the organisation would like to boost its temporary control over the black townships before meeting De Klerk.

The ANC leadership has appeared helpless to stop faction fighting in Natal between supporters of the United Democratic Front, sympathetic to the ANC, and Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthe's strong Inkatha Movement.

The ANC and many whites said the shooting in accommodation white rule.

"I think they're (the ANC) playing for time. De Klerk's pace has been too hot for them," suggested Soth, commenting on the suspension of the talks.

The release of the 71-year-old Mandela from prison in February was ecstatically received by the black community. But his 27-year incarceration raises a real question of how much he and colleagues from the 1950s are in touch with the revolutionary youth of the townships.

Withdrawal

Political analyst Robert Schrire of Cape Town University said the ANC's withdrawal from the talks indicated the predicament of the older leadership.

"Celebrity leaders like Mandela and (Wahne) Lubiano do not have control on the ground," he charged.

De Klerk may also need a breathing space to get his uneasy white supporters into line.

The fighting in Natal and other black areas, which has taken more than 400 lives since February, has made many whites warier than ever of granting more political freedom to blacks.

Even before the bloody clashes last week, some white government officials were talking of a period of "consolidation" before De Klerk introduced further reforms.

SPD agrees to coalition talks

Monetary union angers GDR

EAST BERLIN, April 3, (Agencies): East Germany's Social Democrats (SPD) said today they would enter coalition negotiations with the election-winning Conservative Alliance for Germany and a smaller Liberal Alliance.

The top SPD leadership had recommended yesterday that the party should not enter coalition talks with the alliance, headed by the Christian Democrats.

But acting SPD leader Markus Meckel told a news conference the entire leadership and parliamentary deputies had decided later on Monday to go into negotiations after all to try to form East Germany's first non-communist government.

Boehme tried to kill himself

Bonn paper claims

BONN, April 3, (Agencies): East German Social Democrat (SPD) leader Ibrahim Boehme, who resigned amid allegations that he worked for the hated Stasi security police, tried to commit suicide last week, a West German newspaper reported today.

The Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, quoting "certain sources in Bonn," said Boehme tried to kill himself last Friday and suffered serious head wounds.

The well-respected newspaper gave no further details except to say the politician was admitted to a hospital.

Yesterday, party sources said Boehme, 46, had collapsed and been taken to hospital at the weekend. He was now staying with friends at a secret address, apparently in West Germany, and was said to be suffering from a recurrent ear infection.

Boehme, his health and nerves shattered by the Stasi charges he has repeatedly denied, is the second top East German politician in recent weeks to resign over allegations of links to the Stasi, the former communist government's secret police.

Thousands of people demonstrated in the East German cities of Dresden and Magdeburg yesterday to protest the alleged connections between the two politicians and the former secret police.

The demonstrators demanded a full investigation of the parliament. A group of 15 prominent East German Social Democrats and intellectuals issued a statement also demanding a probe.

A top political leader said the influence of the organisation was so widespread that East Germany may need international help to ferret out former secret police operatives from the new leadership.

Boehme, who twice lost jobs



Markus Meckel

because he spoke out against the former communist government, resigned just three days after he personally inspected the files of the secret service network known as the Stasi.

The party said in a statement earlier that Boehme fainted and was hospitalised on Friday after inspecting the Stasi files on him. He was released after an examination and was reported staying with friends.

The Stasi are reviled by most East Germans because they controlled and intimidated citizens with a wide network of informants during the years of Stalinist-style rule.

Boehme, 46, said he was resigning because the process of clearing his name will require "lengthy investigations" and further burden the task of forming East Germany's first democratic government, said August Kamilli, a high-ranking Social Democrat.

Boehme had also cited health problems, including heart troubles and an inner ear infection, said Markus Meckel, the party's deputy chairman and Boehme's likely successor.

The Christian Democrats (CDU) won more than 40 per cent of the vote in the country's first free elections on March 18 and want a coalition with a large enough parliamentary majority to change the constitution and secure early unification with West Germany.

The leadership of the SPD, which took around 20 per cent of the vote on March 18, had been fighting shy of full-blown negotiations because the CDU insisted on having its alliance partner, the right-wing German Social Union (DSU) in the coalition.

But the leadership, hit by the resignation yesterday of party chief Ibrahim Boehme amid a row over alleged security police links appeared to have been overruled by SPD deputies to the 400-seat Parliament that convenes on Thursday.

Meckel said the problem of the DSU would still have to be discussed during the negotiations.

"We will still have to discuss the type and means of participation the DSU has in a coalition," he said.

The small Liberal Alliance of Free Democrats (BFD) has already met the Conservative three-party grouping headed by the CDU and agreed in principle to join a coalition.

Meckel said the SPD would only go into a coalition if it felt its election programme was sufficiently well reflected in overall planned government policy.

East German Premier Hans Modrow yesterday predicted the four World War II allies could soon be facing a single German government in talks over the nation's reunification.

The communist leader did not repeat his criticism of a West German-proposed formula for monetary union, which has drawn sharp denunciations from East German politicians.

In an address to the global panel gathering on Europe's political and economic future, Modrow said he preferred moves toward reunifying the two Germanys to be dependent on progress in the so-called two-plus-four talks.

The latest idea for uniting the currencies of the two Germanys has angered East Germans, prompting them to organise protests and accuse the West German chancellor of reneging on campaign promises.

Karl Otto Poehl, the influential head of West Germany's central bank, has insisted that most East German marks be swapped at a 2-to-1 rate when the mighty Deutsche mark takes over as East Germany's currency sometime this year.

But the idea has created an uproar among East Germans expecting a general 1-to-1 swap. The proposal also has led East Germans to accuse West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl of breaking promises he made while campaigning on behalf of a conservative alliance.

Postal workers in the East German city of Subl yesterday held a warning strike to press for a 1-to-1 conversion rate, and East Germany's labour union federation is organising a nation-wide demonstration for Thursday.

Both German states have agreed to set up a currency union, viewing it as a crucial step toward unifying their countries.

Under the current plans, West Germany eventually would take over East Germany's economic policies. Bonn would like the currency union in place by July 1, but many details remain to be worked out.

8,100 buried at Stalinist camp: daily

EAST BERLIN, April 3, (UPI): An East German daily said yesterday that about 8,100 German prisoners of war were believed buried in mass graves at the site of a Soviet detention camp near the East German town of Muehlberg.

The East German authorities, which had long ignored the existence of such mass graves have brought the issue to public attention recently and started exhuming bodies at one site near East Berlin last Friday.

Other mass graves were discovered on the grounds of a former detention camp in Neubrandenburg.

The Saechsische Zeitung, attributing its information to former inmates of the Muehlberg Detention Camp in the south of the country, said the prisoners had been subjected to "humane treatment" that often led to their deaths.

Muehlberg regional history expert, Herbert Mueller, said an estimated 46,000 prisoners were detained in the camp which operated between 1945 and 1948.

Shevardnadze in US talks; summit date may be announced

Lithuania seeking a compromise

MOSCOW, April 2, (AP): Lithuanian officials are seeking a compromise with Moscow over independence and attempting to cool tensions.

Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis made conciliatory comments yesterday in a telegram to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and in comments to the Supreme Council Legislature of Lithuania.

Lithuania's declaration of independence on March 11 "may seem to some people... a demand that power be handed over the very next day," he said. "We did not expect this and did not count upon it."

Instead, Landsbergis told legislators the republic had stated "how by means of agreements and a gradual takeover of certain functions we would consolidate our independence."

There was no immediate response from Moscow.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze arrives today in Washington, and officials said he would be questioned closely by President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker about the independence crisis in Lithuania.

However, a senior US official said the Lithuania issue would not crowd other important matters from the agenda.

Baker and Shevardnadze also are likely to discuss — and perhaps announce — a date for the next summit meeting between Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. The summit is tentatively planned to be held in Washington during the second half of June.

Shevardnadze was to be met at Andrews Air Force Base in suburban Maryland at mid-day by Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger.

Soviet soldiers yesterday continued to occupy a prosecutor's office in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, and a newspaper printing plant, and a legislator loyal to the Communist Party told editors of pro-independence



Vilnius residents queue at the Central Post Office to send telegrams of protest to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in reply to his recent appeal to the people of Lithuania. (Reuter wirephoto)



Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis pauses to reflect during meeting on Saturday.

Lithuanian steps toward freedom

VILNIUS, USSR, April 3, (AP): The standard photograph of Soviet founder Vladimir Lenin, usually hanging in the office of every factory manager, has vanished from the wall over the desk of Vincas Babilius.

"I had all the books, too," Babilius said, pointing to bare shelves that once held the works of Lenin and Karl Marx.

Since Lithuania declared independence on March 11, Babilius no longer feels compelled to follow the Soviet model in order to run the Vilnius electrical measuring device factory.

While Lithuania's political leaders struggle daily with Moscow's effort to make them renounce the declaration, people all over the small Baltic nation are quietly moving to establish a state run on its own principles.

newspapers that the papers could not be printed at the plant. Gorbachev on Saturday said talks on independence could take place only if Lithuania renounced its declaration of independence. Gorbachev said refusal may result in "grave consequences for all of us."

They have an enormous task. Lithuania's telephone and connections to the outside world go through Moscow. Its sole direct route to Poland and the outside world is a tiny back road so overused that passing through border formalities can require days. Its relatively robust economy is intertwined with the lumbering Soviet economic system, which is rapidly careening downhill.

But Babilius has begun to cut the ties, starting with the required political meetings that helped ensure the communist's grip on power but consumed time.

"At work, you have to work," he said simply. Lithuanians are forging ahead with preparations for the day when secession will be a reality, 50 years after the Baltic state was absorbed into the Soviet Union.

On the Lithuanian-Byelorussian border, the new government so far has been unable to station frontier guards because of the angry reaction from Moscow.

But some enterprising citizens have chopped off the Russian-language half of a huge concrete sign at the village of Sumskas. They've repainted the remaining half so that sign now says "Lithuanian republic," dropping the "Soviet-socialist" that used to be in the middle.

The Cultural Ministry is gathering artists' designs for a Lithuanian currency and banker Romualdas Visokavicius has already sought printing bids in West Germany.

The newspaper Sovietskaya Litva, or Soviet Lithuania, has changed its name to Eko Litva, or Echo of Lithuania.

Landbergis told legislators that Gorbachev made the toughly worded statements probably because he faces his own political difficulties from conservatives and other independence-minded republics.

"Therefore it is essential to look for a way of helping them and ourselves," Landsbergis said. But the Lithuanian president told lawmakers he did not mean the republic was ready to renounce its declaration of independence. Instead, it wants debate and discussion with Moscow. Lithuania was ready to open

talks that included discussion of the "legal status of Lithuania in relation to the Soviet Constitution and international law," Landsbergis said.

His comments were carried on Lithuanian radio and monitored by the British Broadcasting Corp. in London.

Murder charges denied

BUCHAREST, April 3, (UPI): The brother of executed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, saying he only shot in the air, denied murder and genocide charges at the opening of one of the most high-profile trials since the December revolution.

Gen. Nicolae Andruța Ceausescu, who faces a maximum sentence of life imprisonment if convicted, is the closest Ceausescu relative to stand trial for crimes stemming from the communist dictator's near quarter century rule.

The former chief of a security police training unit is accused of fatally shooting seven people Dec 21 during some of the heaviest fighting between loyalist forces and anti-government demonstrators. Ceausescu's regime fell the next day and the dictator and his wife were executed Dec 25.

He also is charged with inciting others to commit genocide, attempted murder and weapons offenses. Prosecutors said they would produce witnesses who saw General Ceausescu shoot seven people in the crowd outside the Intercontinental Hotel in central Bucharest.



Lt General Nicolae Andruța Ceausescu, in dock in Bucharest on first day of his trial for "aggravated murder" and other crimes. (Reuter wirephoto)

EEC urges quicker aid for East Europe

LUXEMBOURG, April 3, (Reuters): European Economic Community foreign ministers called yesterday for EEC aid programmes to be extended to all of Eastern Europe as quickly as possible, diplomats said.

They quoted Italy's Gianni de Michelis as saying that the community had to provide continual encouragement for these countries rather than wait for them to complete their transitions from communism to democracy.

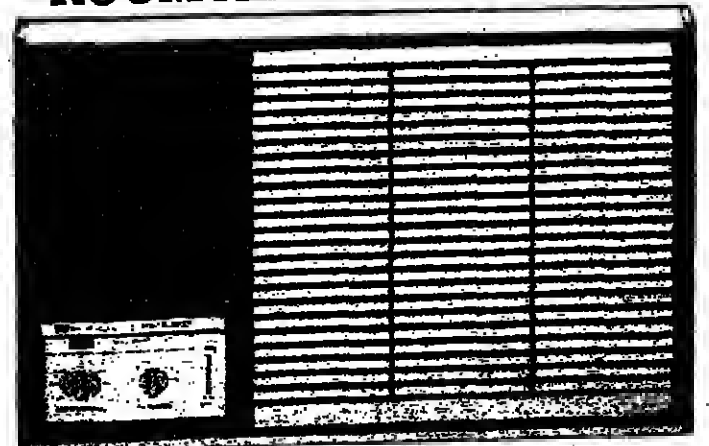
The EEC last year launched a programme of food aid, training and other economic assistance for Poland and Hungary, the two countries in the vanguard of change.

It has earmarked 500 million European Currency Units (\$600 million) for aid this year, 850 million ECU for 1991 and a billion for 1992.

The so-called "group of 24" industrialised countries, whose aid the EEC commission is co-ordinating, have also agreed in principle that the other emerging democracies should benefit from their co-ordinated actions.

Officials said EEC external relations commission Frans Andriessen told the meeting that fact-finding missions to the other states had sufficient data about their requirements for decisions to be made by a ministerial meeting of the 24 in June.

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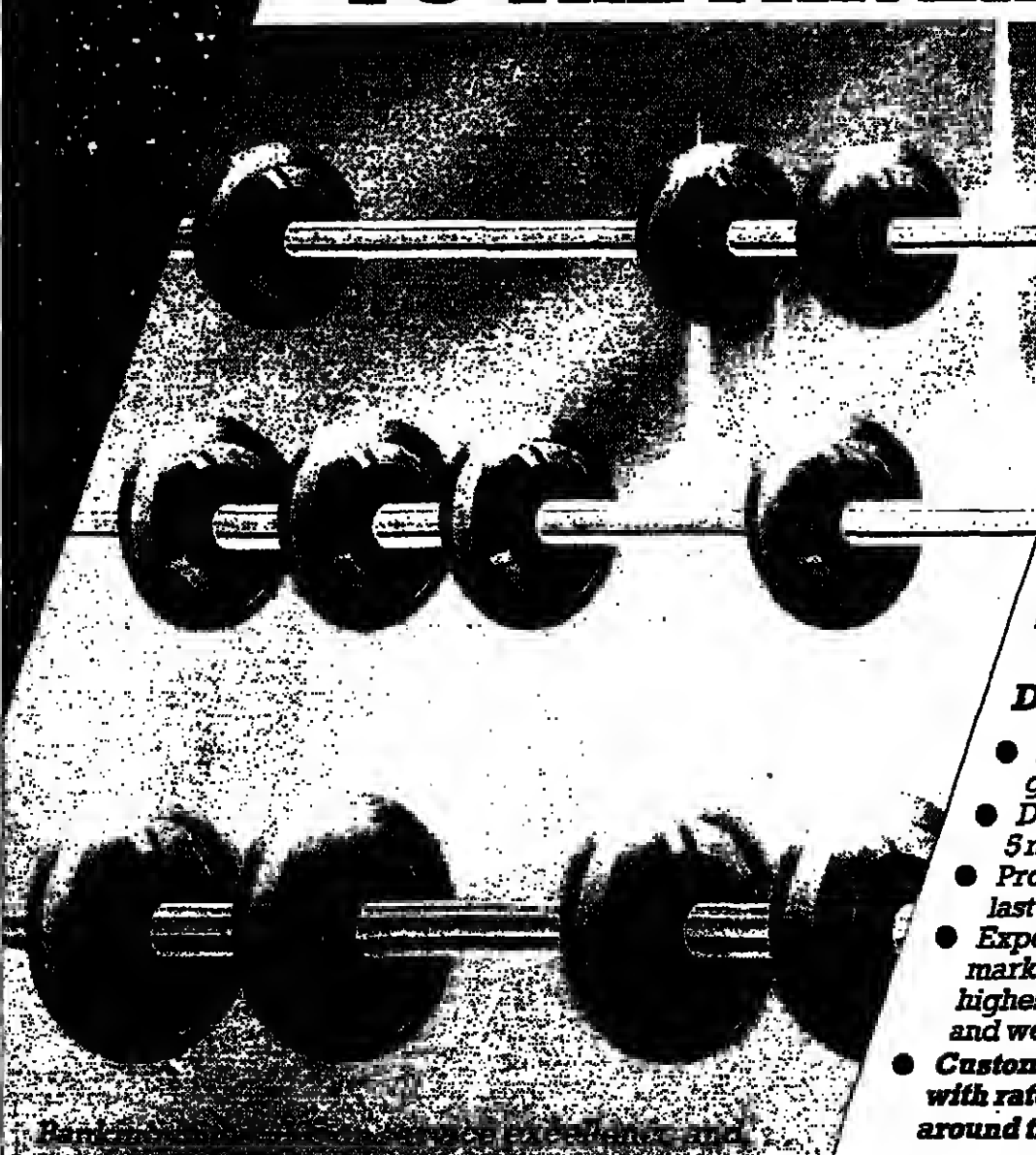
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KUWAIT ... GULF

Bee-keepers being encouraged in Kuwait

Bid to produce honey

THE director of Botanic Department at Kuwait Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources, Jassim Al-Bader has been quoted as saying that the authority pays special concern to developing the bees sector in view of its importance in the agricultural development plan.

In an interview with the daily Al-Sayassah, the official said that the authority paid special concern to this sector to keep abreast with the trend among citizens to raise bees in order to contribute to the

provision of the local needs of honey.

He added that the authority has monitored bee keepers in the country in order to probe the problems facing them and to discuss diseases which apiculturists may encounter.

In the light of its discussion with the beekeepers the authority had set up the organisational regulations governing the imports of bees which will be subject to certain safety conditions to ensure that imported bees were free of disease. He

added that the authority was concentrating on the import of bees which are capable of adapting to the country's climatical conditions.

Apart from the above, the official said that the authority inspectors were providing the necessary instructions and guidance to bee keepers. Additionally, the authority has organised field training courses for bee keepers entitled "How to raise and care for bees". He added that about 73 trainees were involved in these

courses. The trainees were subject to an intensified programme under the supervision of the Agricultural Guidance Department at the authority. These training courses included a number of films and successful graduates will be given certificates.

In conclusion, the official called on citizens dealing in the agricultural field not to hesitate to contact the departments concerned at the authority for obtaining the guidance related to their activities.

University charter agreeable: Tabtabai

DEAN of the Law College at the University of Kuwait, Dr Adel Al-Tabtabai has stated that he fully backs up the legal opinion of the contents of the 1986 university regulations charter and added that he also agrees with the opinion of the Students Affairs Deanship and the Islamic Rulings Department.

Interviewed by a local daily, he indicated that students at the university enjoy more benefit with the new academic system and have more time to understand the contents of a scientific course.

With respect to the problem of cars parking lots at the Law College, he pointed out that the college is not to be held responsible and the problem has been presented to the University Planning Director.

Delay

He reasoned the delay in opening the post-graduate section at the Law College to be due to some pending measures. He added that the college is currently awaiting the arrival of some professors in order to evaluate and assess programme which will then be introduced and viewed by the University Council for approval.

Regarding the issue on students professional training before graduation, the dean stated that the currently implemented system at the college requires students to obtain a minimum of ten academic credit hours of professional training before graduation. He pointed out that students training is usually held in legal working areas like courts, investigation department, the Higher Appeal and others. Meetings will be held with representatives from these departments to reach agreements on the basis of training and methods used in students evaluation.

Computerisation

Tabtabai described the project of computerising judicial rulings as vital. He indicated that the Law College has exerted efforts and time in order to obtain university approval and financial support. He stated that the college has succeeded to get university approval with a special budget and special committee which was recently formed is currently formulating steps required for the implementation of the projects. He stressed that the project will greatly benefit all legal field workers and employees in addition to facilitating scientific research.

There are no problems whatsoever resulting from implementing both the extended system and the semester system at the college at the same time, Tabtabai said.

No change in art.77

THE Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al-Ahmad has affirmed that article 77 of the labour law won't be amended or changed. The article relates to public association and trade unions and ways for dissolving them. This was stated yesterday by the chairman of the General Union of Kuwait Workers after a visit he paid to the minister. He said that he headed a delegation from the union and visited Sheikh Nasser to discuss some labour issues and relations with the ministry. He praised the atmosphere of the discussions with the minister.

The chairman of the union said that the minister told the delegation the ministry will take all the necessary measures and steps to stop any plans for amending or changing the article 77 of the law. He said that Sheikh Nasser affirmed them that the issue is over. Sheikh Nasser also expressed readiness to solve any problems facing the labour movement in Kuwait.

Book fair

KUWAIT, April 2. (Kuna) : Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah will on Saturday inaugurate the 10th Social Book Fair organised by the Kuwaiti Social Association at its premises in Adailab.



Stocking up for breakfast

Consumption, specially for families during the holy month of Ramadan increases considerably compared to other months in the year and for many families expenditure exceeds budget every year during this period.

In addition to the increased needs of commodities specially food stuffs, the increase of expenditure is attributed to the increase in prices of several commodities such as "Qamar Al-Been, nuts of all types, cheeses and other such commodities. It is tradition that families visit one another during the Ramadan period to break the fast and consequently delicacies have to be provided and that too in large quantities.

Ismael Ibrahim a shopper anticipates price hikes to be even steeper than the past due to the increase in the salaries of government employees and commented that a lack of price censorship has

encouraged many merchants to increase their prices. He commented that the consumers protection department should play an effective role in controlling prices.

He said that he usually prepares a month in advance of Ramadan and purchases most of his goods from wholesale shops. The general trend to rush at the eleventh hour by most consumers leads to a shortage and creates an artificial demand leading to a price increase, he said.

Another consumer said that prices of vegetables and other fruits enjoy price increases as they have coincided with the spring season. However, he said that many families have stored other items that they need for a month and commented that these items fall within the range of goods having long expiry dates.

Spray bedrooms advice Mosquitoes invade country

SWARMS of the common mosquito have begun to invade the country as a result of the relative stability in the weather conditions and is a cause of nuisance to people who sit outdoors to enjoy the fresh breeze.

According to an insecticide specialist at the Public Health Ministry, Dr Ali Slati, the insect currently seen in the residential areas is a seasonal type of insect which commonly spreads with the advent of summer, adding that it carried no disease-causing viruses.

He pointed out that there are two species of this type of insect, stinging and non-stinging. Some

people have a certain level of allergy to it, who break out at the mere landing of this insect on their skins, due to the alkaline substance secreted by the insect.

This insect is expected to disappear from Kuwait within two or three weeks the official said, but in the meantime the sand storm yesterday could wipe out its presence as moderate weather condition is responsible for its reproduction.

He said that the organic material and algae found close to coasts, farms swimming pools or house gardens form the fertile breeding beds for this type of insect. They also become

extremely activated by southern or northern winds.

He stressed the current Health Ministry efforts to combat this insect adding that the main concern is to destroy disease-carrying insects, using insecticides safe to the environment and to people.

He urged people not to use strong insecticides to kill these insects at home, stressing that the common house-fly killer will give good results if it does not contain long-term insect killer.

He said that it will be advisable to lightly spray bedrooms with insecticides before using them, pointing that the light attract this insect.



Science camp

Kuwait Science Club held a party for the ending of science camps programmes for outstanding students at the third secondary stage. The programme was organised by the Science Club in co-operation with the Ministry of Education from Nov 13, 1989 until March 15, 1990.

A special speech was delivered by the club general secretary Dawoud Al-Ahmad who pointed out that this was the first experiment of its kind in Kuwait and the Gulf area.

Director of the School Activity Department, Bader Al-Mashrouk stated that such camps have provided participants with adequate scientific atmosphere in order for them to express their interests. He indicated that these camps are held upon an Amiri wish to patronise outstanding students.

Dawoud and Mashrouk distributed among lecturers and participants from the Ministry of Defence, the Fire Fighting Department and students received certificates of their effective participation.

Khorafi accepts Jaafar resignation

KUWAIT's Minister of Finance Jassim Al-Khorafi has approved as saying that he has quoted recently the resignation of the director of London based Kuwait Investment Bureau Fuad Jaafar.

In an interview with a local daily, the minister disclosed that Sheikh Fahed Mohammed Al-Sabah has been assigned as acting director of the bureau until the issue of the relevant decision appointing a new director is settled.

Meanwhile, the daily learnt

the resigned official will undertake a new leading post at Kuwait Public Investment Authority as of April 15. It added that the authority will impose strict control on the investment bureau in a measure aimed at minimising the importance of British capital as an investment centre and in order to divert to new markets throughout the world.

The daily quoted an official source as saying that the authority in the light of the new policy has shifted four officials from London office to Kuwait by the end of 1989 and a new board of

directors had been appointed for the office as of the beginning of this year.

On the other hand, the authority has recently announced a new investment plan through four vehicles, the first of which is the London office, the second to be represented by setting up foreign financial centres, the third through local and regional financial institutions and the fourth will be represented by some firms and institutions in which the Public Investment Authority holds shares.

Influence assuming alarming proportions

USING personal connections, more commonly known as "wasta" has every indication of assuming alarming proportions as it destroys the rights of others through illegal exploitation of official channels.

A local daily interviewed a number of officials in several sectors to highlight this disregard for official etiquette.

Undersecretary of the Higher Education Ministry, Dr Msaed Al-Haroun said that "wasta" is a tool used to overcome regulations and laws and termed it as one of the most negative phenomenon to have appeared recently in Kuwait society. He said that due to the small size of the Kuwaiti family, "wasta" is predominant.

The official said that the time has come to combat this phenomenon and sincere efforts by all officials should be exerted to ensure that the law is fully implemented and the rights of others are not prejudiced by the use of influence.

Violation

Assistant Undersecretary for Services Affairs at the Ministry of Public Health, Yousif Al-Ateiqi described "wasta" as a blight which is rapidly permeating all sectors of Kuwait society. He warned that it is tantamount to violating the law and called on officials to ensure that they uphold the letter of law as well as the spirit and to demonstrate to their subordinates by effective examples that "wasta" will not be tolerated and to root out this unprofessional conduct.

He admitted that the medical services are not exempted from this influence and underscored the fact that the medical profession should predominantly set an example by treating all in an equal manner. Candidly speaking, he said that some employees at the medical sector easily succumb to social pressures applied by some groups. He stressed that physicians should follow a uniform policy to gain the trust of their patients and should refrain from violating the spirit of the "code of ethics" at all times.

Assistant Secretary for Legal Affairs at the Ministry of Justice, Abdul Aziz Al-Dakheel pointed out that individuals should fully realise that holding a specific job in any sector is a legal responsibility which should be carried out honestly.

Bleepers stopped

THE Kuwait Mobile Telephone System Company has decided to stop distributing the "Pager" systems and reject any new application for the acquisition of these systems, following the increasing complaints by the owners of mobile telephone systems and pager equipment in the use of these systems to get a free line in the evenings and the peak hour.

A local daily reported that a proposed solution to alleviate the pressure on the existing exchange office involves the establishment of a new system based on the expansion of the office's capacity by 20,000 more lines.

The paper added that the company is currently considering encouraging mobile subscribers to economise in the use of their equipment, through offering them ample facilities in return for their positive response to the company's appeal, such as the reduction of their annual subscription fees.

Solving the dilemma of young Palestinians

By Lima Al-Khalafawi
Arab Times staff

THE Palestinian issue has wider ramifications than what meets the eye. Without elucidating on the usurpation of Palestinian lands per se, the dispersement of the Palestinian individual, and social "think-tank" in these countries where the majority of these displaced Palestinian have sought a certain level of unification among themselves", according to head of the Palestinian Women's Association in Kuwait, Siham Dabagh.

Under her leadership the association is looking after the education of 2,600 Palestinian students in Kuwait providing KD 200,000 annually for their tuition. The association also attributes to the welfare of 82 Palestinian families in Kuwait, also it has a number of 4,000 members participating in several activities of this association.

Dabagh who is an official with long experience, said that every Palestinian passed through one problem or another, simply because he or she is outside and far away from his homeland.

Dabagh speaking with emotions, related her past experience and suffering when she and her family were forcibly evicted from their house and moved out of Jaffa. She fervently hoped that they would return in a couple of days, but this hope never materialised.

Dabagh with deep memories of her childhood in Palestine never forgets the scene of the British soldiers, who broke into their house many times searching for her father "head of the Muslim Youth Association and a well known activist against the British mandate in Palestine". Dabagh, in her early childhood at that time remembers her father reciting the Quran when the British soldiers came asking her mother about him. Her father, a man who was 45 years old at that time presented himself to the soldiers and declared "I am Ali Dabagh".

Dabagh can never until this moment forget her father's watch being snatched by a soldier who assured her mother that they would come again. She with her mother and brothers spent that night at their grandfather's house after the soldiers took her father away. The next morning they were informed by the neighbours about the same soldiers asking about her mother. For two years they continued to live at their grandfather's house until her father was released from jail.

Dabagh recalled the past when their house was bombed by Israelis and were forced to go in a boat from Jaffa to Gaza. "That was like a nightmare as the boat tossed on the high waves" she said.



Siham Dabagh

Finally they succeeded in reaching Gaza. From there they travelled in a truck to Lydda along with their wounded brother who had to be carried in a stretcher. She remembered before they left their house how her mother covered the furniture, folding her gold and Persian carpets in the hope that they return after a few days. It was 1948 at that time when Jaffa fell to the Israelis and the family moved to Israel and in Syria.

She remembered another incident from her childhood. Once she wanted to buy shoes from Tel Aviv, her father put her on his lap and told her "With the money you pay for the shoes, Israelis will but bullets and ammunitions to kill you and us". She returned to school next day and told all her friends not to purchase any goods from Tel Aviv.

Dabagh who never visited her homeland since 1948 revealed that she cannot bear the idea of being checked by Israelis as she will lose her temper. She is informed that her 1948 Jaffa and its main landmarks do not exist any more, because it was demolished and new buildings have been erected by Israelis.

"The suffering that you undergo becomes more painful when you are forced to live outside your homeland", she said. Dabagh who is a staunch defender of the rights of her people to their lands, said that after 40 years the determination to solve the Palestinian issue still exists, yet with

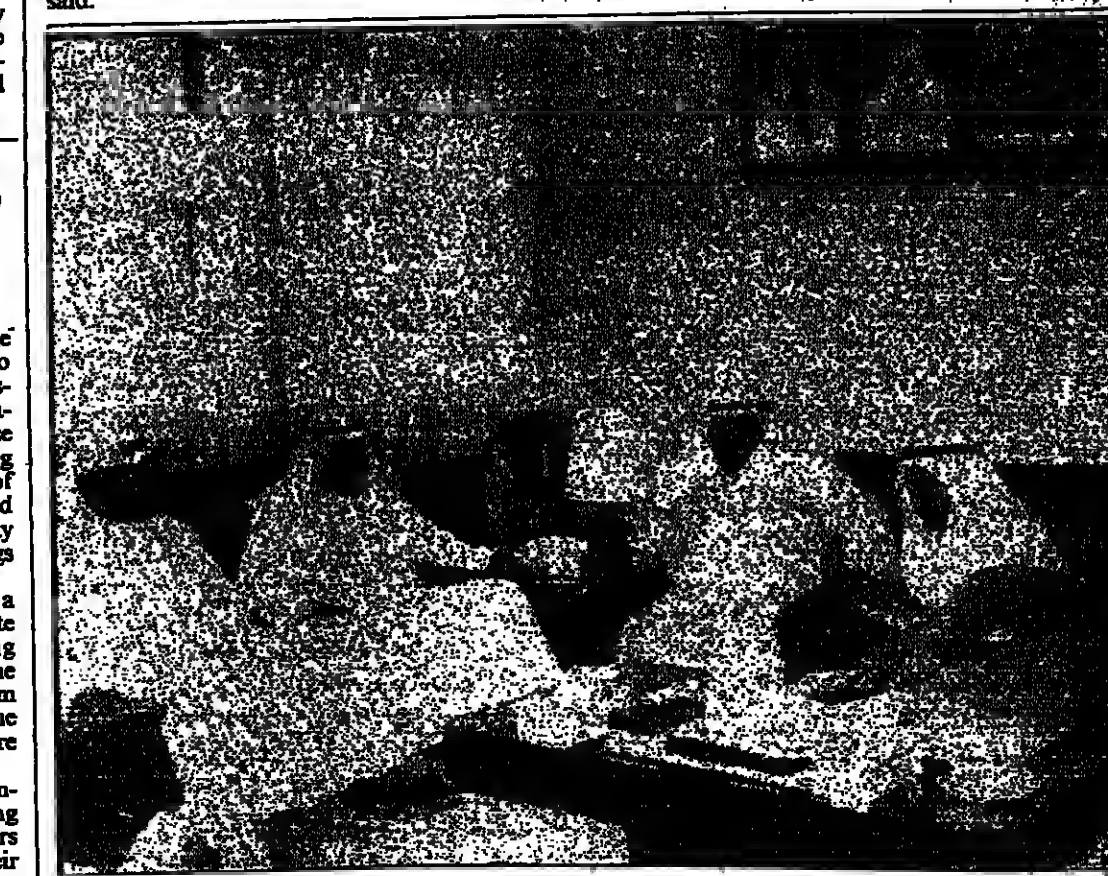
the intifada they will be able to regain Palestine.

Talking about Palestinians inside the occupied lands, she said all Palestinians, irrespective of their age or religion support each other in fighting the enemy. The mentality of all Palestinians dispersed all over the globe is focused to spare no efforts or money in the support of their heroic intifada.

"Women in particular became more open minded and educated." Citing an example of a wife of an expelled activist that wrote back to inform him that she is "saving money to buy a piece of land to cultivate it and live on, instead of leaving her homeland and her husband in the hands of the enemy".

Dabagh said women inside and outside the occupied lands are fully aware of their role and the priorities instead of feeding their children with milk and food, they feed their minds with thoughts of regaining their lands. Palestinian women wherever they are form associations so that they can fulfil their need of staying in close contact with each other.

The struggle will be carried on by the next generation. Her grandson who is only six years old already talks about saving money and fighting Israelis. She said such ideas are taking roots in the minds of the young Palestinians thanks to the inspiration provided by their parents and grandparents.



Workers union

The Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received at his office at the ministry recently a delegation from the Kuwait General Workers Union, in the presence of his undersecretary, Issa Yaseen.

Kuwaiti standards in aviation high

BRIGADIER Pilot Dawood Sulaiman Al-Ghanem, commander of the Kuwait Airforce was born in Kuwait in 1939 and joined the Kuwait Army in Sep. 1962, after graduating from Shuwaikh Secondary School. Ghanem's first flight was on August 28, 1958 after he had joined the Kuwait Army Aviation Club previously located in Nuzha. After obtaining his commercial flying licence, he went to Scotland to attend a training course and gained a Pilot Certificate which qualified him to join the Airforce of Kuwait. He is considered one of the first Kuwaiti pilots to fly jet fighters.

Interviewed by a local daily, he said that the level of Kuwaiti aviation could be considered to be on a par with the best in the world.

Speaking on the Iran-Iraq war, he said that Kuwait was not directly

involved, but because it was near the border, the Kuwait Airforce was put on alert at all times. However, this alert period provided Kuwait with the experience in dealing with early warning systems of enemy attacks.

He said that the entry of F-18 jet fighters in the Kuwait Airforce will contribute in no small measure to enhancing their capabilities. The F-18 are expected to actively be a part of the airforce as early as 1992, he added.

Brigadier Ghanem said that the Air Photography Section plays a vital role in the services and provides section photographs of Kuwait from different altitudes and also prepares maps. This section's services are highly valuable to the airforce, the official added.

Ministries respond to CSC administrative plan

Bid to upgrade performance

THE Assistant Undersecretary for Administrative Development Affairs at Kuwait's Civil Service Commission (CSC) Dr Nasser Al Sanea was quoted as saying that about 29 governmental authorities had showed great response to the first follow-up report prepared by CSC to be referred to the Cabinet.

He added that the report was prepared in accordance with the Cabinet decision

suggesting that the government authorities should prepare a short term plan on administrative development projects during the period from 1.11.1989 up to 30.6.1990.

Follow-up

The official said that the Civil Service Commission had requested the government authorities to provide the CSC with

the necessary follow-up reports covering the period. The closing date for the first report was set as 15.3.1990 and for the other on 15.7.1990.

Meanwhile, the official thanked all the government authorities who showed co-operation with the administrative development sector which is represented by submitting its relevant reports on this

matter and urged the other authorities to forward their reports to the CSC as early as possible.

He disclosed that in the light of the relevant follow-up reports received from the governmental authorities, the Civil Service Commission, will conduct a comparative study in order to upgrade performance at the different governmental authorities.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amiri audience

KUWAIT, April 3, (Kuna): HH the Amir received yesterday board chairman and members of the Qadessiyeh Sports Club and players of the volleyball team as well as chairman and board members of Kazemah Sports Club and players of the basketball team on occasion of winning first places in the volleyball and basketball contests of the 10th Arab Gulf Tournament, recently held in Kuwait.

The audience was attended by Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed and President of the Kuwait Olympic Committee Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed.

Premier receives

KUWAIT, April 3, (Kuna): HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla Al Sabah received yesterday at Bayan Palace board chairman and members of the Qadessiyeh Sports Club and players of the volleyball team as well as chairman and board members of Kazemah Sports Club and players of the basketball team on occasion of winning first places in the volleyball and basketball contests of the 10th Arab Gulf Tournament, recently held in Kuwait.

The audience was attended by Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed and President of the Kuwait Olympic Committee Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed.

Kuwaiti envoy

CAIRO, April 3, (Kuna): Egypt's Prime Minister Dr Atef Sidki yesterday received Kuwait's Ambassador in Cairo Abdul Razzak Al Kandary.

Later, Kandary told Kuna that he has conveyed a message from HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla containing an invitation to Dr Sidki to visit Kuwait.

The envoy added the invitation has been accepted by Dr Sidki and a date for the visit would be determined after the present Ramadan (fasting) month.

New Syrian envoy

KUWAIT, April 3, (Kuna): Syria has named Dr Mustafa Haj Ali to become its new ambassador to Kuwait, it was learnt today.

Dr Mustafa is at present director of the office of Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam. He is expected to arrive here after Ramadan to present his credentials to HH the Amir.

Dr Haj Ali is his country's first ambassador to Kuwait in more than two years when the assignment of his predecessor, Dr Eisa Darweesh expired in late December 1987.

Labour discussions

ABU DHABI, April 3, (Reuters): Arab countries fear that change in Eastern Europe will bring in new cheap labour and force out around one million Arab workers.

United Arab Emirates Labour and Social Affairs Minister Khalaf Al Roumi was quoted by Al Ittihad newspaper today as saying the Arabs would discuss the problem with West European countries.

Iraq-Tunisia co-op

TUNIS, April 3, (Kuna): The higher Iraqi-Tunisian joint committee for co-operation will hold a session here tomorrow, it was announced here yesterday.

Iraqi First Deputy Premier Taha Yasin Ramadan will head the Iraqi side in the two-day talks which will centre on ways of increasing the level of commercial exchanges in addition to bolstering bilateral relations.

Mubarak receives

KUWAIT, April 3, (Kuna): Minister of Information Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad received in his office yesterday manager of the Lebanese Dar Essayad Press House, Bassam Feraha on occasion of his visit to Kuwait at the invitation of the information ministry.

Snake causes car crash

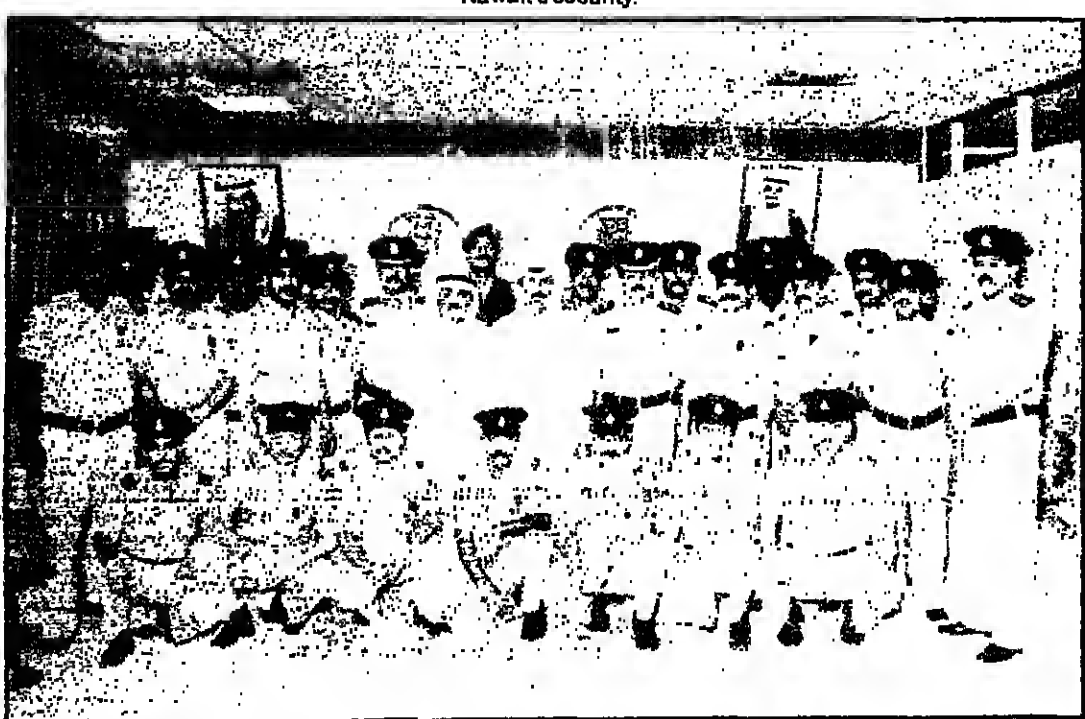
NICOSIA, April 3, (Reuters): A man who thought he was alone in his car as he drove to a village west of Muscat was surprised to find he had a visitor — a three-foot snake.

The Oman News Agency said he panicked, crashed and was knocked unconscious. Police said the snake was found unharmed in the wreckage.



Amiri medals awarded

Director-General of the Criminal Evidence Department, Col Saud Al Barges gave away yesterday medals provided by HH the Amir to a number of officers in the department for their excellent services. Col Barges called upon the honoured officers to consider these medals as a motivation to protect and preserve Kuwait's security.



From the courts

Man gets 7 years for attempted rape

THE Criminal Court sentenced a man to seven years penal servitude for the attempted rape of his neighbour's newly hired Sri Lankan maid.

The court was told that the accused approached the maid early one morning when she was washing the car of her employer and demanded to know her name and nationality, which she willingly provided thinking he was a security officer.

However, the accused waited until no-one was in the house and then climbed the wall and went to the maid's quarters where he tried to rape her. However, she put up a valiant fight and managed to leave scratch marks on his face before he escaped.

Based on the description of the maid's testimony, security police successfully arrested the accused.

SECURITYMEN in Jahra arrested the driver of a Chevy van who had earlier evaded a border checkpoint at Salmi. However, an APB facilitated the identification of the car by the police patrol.

A rifle and 55 bullets were found with the driver in addition to bits of glass of liquor bottles. Consequently, securitymen followed the track of the car made as the driver tried to drive away when he first observed the police and found 14 cartons of liquor and 11 bottles strewn along the trucks tracks.

Meanwhile, the same officers spotted a red Mazda parked in a suspicious manner half a kilometre away from the checkpoint and on investigation found ten cartons of liquor and 21 bottles of assorted alcohol.

The suspects and the contraband have been referred to the authorities for further investigation.

THE Criminal Court sentenced a man identified as Sunil to six months imprisonment for manufacturing alcohol at his residence.

The court was told that Sunil was holding function for a number of friends as he was leaving Kuwait permanently. Police who were informed, initially tried to purchase some alcohol, but were unsuccessful. Subsequently, they raided his residence and a quantity of alcohol and manufacturing equipment were seized.

THE Court of Higher Appeals overturned the judgement of the Criminal Court which had refrained on passing sentence on an accused arrested for forcibly entering and molesting a lady and sentenced him to three years imprisonment with hard labour.

The court was told that the accused one day prior to the incident had seen the lady identified as Huda with whom he had a love relationship five years ago and she invited him to his apartment during the absence of her husband.

However, when he arrived at the apartment, the lady refused to see him and he forcibly entered and tried to kiss and fondle the lady. She reported the incident to the police.

The sentence was passed in absentia.

THE Court of Misdemeanours acquitted a woman of the charge of having illicit relations with a man, but fined her KD30 for drinking alcohol.

The court was told that the man named Abdul Jafri fell from the woman's 5th floor apartment and died instantly. Police who arrived found his ID, scarf and Uqal in the woman's house. She said that she was having an illicit relation with the man for some time as she was a divorcee living along with her 23-year-old son.

She said that on the day of the incident, her door bell rung and thinking it was her son, she asked the man to hide in the balcony. However, he fell and died.

THE Higher Appeal Court freed a public relation officer from the charges of attempted sexual assault and rape against a female employee working in the same office.

Initially, the first degree court had tried the accused and called for submitting a good conduct for a period of a year. However, the accused appealed and the Higher Appeals Court acquitted him for lack of any convincing evidence.

A MAN was sentenced to five years imprisonment with hard labour, a fine of KD7 to be followed by deportation on being convicted of forgery of some traffic department documents with the hope of obtaining a licence plate for his vehicle.

The accused was working as a computer operator at Ahmadi Traffic Department and was able to commit the crime through his daily use of the facilities.

A MAN and a woman were sentenced to two years imprisonment with hard labour by the Criminal Court for having illicit sexual relations.

The court was told that the woman was married to a Pakistani who had claimed that he had sent her to Pakistan five months back. However, his friends claimed that they had seen the lady in Kuwait during the recent past. On a complaint lodged to the police, they investigated the incident and found the lady staying with her paramour.

KUWAIT'S Criminal Court tried three officials of Kuwait Municipality involved in dealing with spoilt edibles.

The court was told that the three accused, one a physician and the other two municipal inspectors had fraudulently approved a consignment of beef for sale in exchange for a bribe by the importing company.

However, the court noted that the relevant test on the imported meat was conducted after a lapse of three months from the date of the certificate and thus expressed a certain degree of doubt and acquitted the three accused.

Discounted fares to end, says Al official

By Fathima Ahmed

Arab Times staff

A GROUP of five airlines, led by Kuwait Airways, are anxious to bring parity between market fares and IATA fares. Air India's director for Gulf and Middle East M.P. Mascarenhas told a press conference at the Sheraton Hotel yesterday.

This means that the airlines are seriously working toward ending discounted fares, a practice begun in January this year under KAC's Yield Improvement Programme (YIP). The group has KAC, Air India, Saudia, Emirates and Gulf Air and will shortly include Syrian Arab Airlines. Air India signed a bilateral agreement with KAC last year.

"Ultimately, all airlines will fall in line and charge IATA level fares," said Mascarenhas. KAC, he said, was keen to improve yield and services and has been working toward eliminating disparity in fares.

The Al official said that the airline has seen a 10 per cent increase in the traffic flow between Kuwait and India. He expected a similar rise this year. There are eight Al flights to India but the airline is planning to have "some extra flights" to cope with the summer rush.

"I can't tell you how many extra flights we will have but if the need arises, we'll have them," he said.

Mascarenhas said he held meetings with representatives of the Goan Welfare Society and the United Malayalee Organisation. The Goans submitted a memorandum asking for the introduction of family fare, review of baggage allowance and airline schedules.



Mascarenhas

Tribalism, Islam and guns should be retained

ABU DHABI, April 3, (Reuters): North Yemen's top tribal chief says tribalism and Islam should retain their importance in a multi-party political system, and tribesmen should have the traditional right to carry weapons.

"In my opinion, pluralism is better than a one-party system, but it should be based on the Yemeni people's beliefs, which are mainly Islam," Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein Al-Ahmar, was quoted on Monday as saying in the UAE newspaper Al-Itihad.

"The Yemeni people in the city and the countryside are all from tribes. All of them stick to their traditions and yet back the Yemeni state. There is no contradiction between tribalism and the state," said Ahmar, who is chief of the Hasher Tribe.

Tribesmen would continue to carry weapons because "We consider them part of our tradition," he said.

North and South Yemen last November agreed a political merger and reforms including the right to form political parties when the two states finally unite.

Special training for handicapped

THE Ministry of Education has set up a joint committee to offer professional training to some categories of handicapped who are unable to comprehend or react with professional programmes at the special education schools.

The committee comprises experts from the Ministry of Education and the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training. The committee will study the cases of these handicapped pupils in these schools which are reported to be on the increase.

The committee is headed by the director of planning department at the Paaet, Mansour Al Mishaal and includes nine specialised teachers at the authority and the special education schools.

AEUC withdrawal decision objective

Avoiding duplication major concern

KUWAIT'S withdrawal from the Arab League's Arab Economic Union Council is not against any bloc nor is it against any Arab joint economic march.

Assistant Undersecretary at Kuwait's Ministry of Finance, Mustafa Jassim Al Shamali was quoted as saying.

In an interview with a local daily, the official said that Kuwait's stand is based on the conviction that its contribution to the respective council is no longer seen as making any positive contribution to the Arab economic joint activities.

Elucidating, he said that Kuwait had called on several occasions for the development of the Arab Economic Union Council, including the evaluation of the other Arab specialised organisations as far back as 1975, in addition to revising of the Arab Joint Defence Pact and the Arab Economic Pact which had been concluded among Arab countries within the framework of the Arab League.

He added that these efforts had resulted in setting up of the Arab Economic and Social Council which groups in its membership the Arab economies and finance ministers and is aimed at supervising Arab specialised organisations and setting up of any new Arab organisations — subject to the approval of the council.

Deliberations

Shamali went on to state that different changes prevailing in the Arab arena had entailed the review of the current Arab joint organisation and Kuwait had participated in these deliberations. He added that the committee in its recommendation had called for preventing the setting up of any new organisations in addition to forming a co-ordination committee among Arab organisations which undertakes to submit relevant reports about the achievements of these organisations to the Arab Economic and Social Council.

The official pointed out that the economic crisis which faced a number of Arab countries had resulted in these countries not being in a position to honour

their obligations towards the Arab specialised organisations and in this respect, Kuwait had found itself reluctant to review the situation of these organisations in the light of these developments.

Shamali added that there are about 17 Arab specialised organisations and the total contributions which had not been honoured by the member states up to 1986 amounted to US\$132.5 million. However, he pointed out that Kuwait had always abided by its obligations towards these organisations, but, initially had laid down some criteria for fulfilling its obligations which were represented by ensuring that at least 60 per cent of the member states of the organisations should do the same.

Feasibility

The official further disclosed that Kuwait's Cabinet had formed a committee in 1986 for studying the feasibility of Kuwait's contribution to a number of Arab and international organisations. The committee had set up its conceptions in the light of financial, administrative and technical reports of these organisations. In this respect, the committee had set up the necessary criteria governing Kuwait's contribution to any Arab or international organisation.

Apart from the above, Kuwait's minister of finance called during the meeting of the Arab Economic and Social Council held in 1986 for conducting a comprehensive evaluation of the Arab specialised organisations and avoiding duplication of functions.

The minister at that meeting commented that some organisations had large budgets which were not commensurate with their activities and drew the attention of member states to some other organisations who had no significant achievements to their credit. Likewise, he referred to the countries who had failed to fulfill their obligations towards these organisations.

Replying to a question whether Kuwait would withdraw from other Arab organisations, the official said that

Kuwait since the past thirty years had spared no efforts in supporting the joint Arab work which was represented by the Arab joint organisations. However, Kuwait's primary concern is the duplication of activities of these organisations and is keen to see that all Arab organisations practice their activities in a public spirited manner and redress the duplication of activities.

The official said that the activities of the Arab financial institutions were different than those of the Arab specialised organisations. The financial institutions, he said, had their own board of directors and its general assembly and held regular annual meetings. He pointed out that during the recent meeting of the board of governors of these financial institutions which took place on March 14 and 15, 1990 in Abu Dhabi, these institutions had shown significant activities, particularly towards extending loans and financial facilities to Arab countries.

Meanwhile, a local daily yesterday quoted an unnamed senior Kuwaiti official as saying Kuwait would not reverse its decision to withdraw from the Arab Economic Union Council.

The decision to leave the Arab League's 13 member body has not been taken haphazardly, the official told the daily and stressed, however, that Kuwait's move must not be interpreted as an effort to undermine collective Arab action.

Last month Kuwait said it was withdrawing from the Arab Economic Union Council because other members were failing to pay their share of contributions and because of the council's inefficiency.

The Kuwaiti official was commenting on news that the council had recently introduced administrative reforms, sought earlier by Kuwait, in a move to persuade Kuwait to change its mind, the paper said.

He echoed earlier official statements in stressing that Kuwait will continue to contribute to strengthening collective Arab action in the face of the "dangers" threatening the Arab nation.

War damaged copters repaired: Iran

NICOSIA, April 3, (AP): Two US-built military helicopters damaged in the 1980-88 Gulf war have been repaired by Iranian technicians and successfully test flown, Iran's state-run television network reported recently.

The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, showed the two navy RH-57E mine-sweeper helicopters take off, hover and land.

But the broadcast did not say whether the RH-57Es' complex avionics and weapons systems were operational. A chronic shortage of spare parts for its US-made weapons systems rendered many of Iran's aircraft non-operational for combat during the war.

Defence Minister Akbar Torkan said in an

interview that more than 15,000 man-hours were spent rebuilding the helicopters, which he said were among "the most complex and biggest aircraft we have, and among the largest in the world."

He said that "Iran is one of the very few countries which has the capability to rebuild and overhaul this type of aircraft."

Since the August 1988 ceasefire in the war with Iraq, the Iranians claim to have rebuilt and overhauled a number of advanced aircraft, including F-14 Tomcat interceptors, Boeing 747s and C-130 transports, without foreign assistance, amid a major drive to build up a domestic arms industry.

France, Iran renew loan issue talks

PARIS, April 3, (Reuters): A top French official flew to Tehran yesterday to resume talks on a billion-dollar debt dispute, the Foreign Ministry said.

Francoise Scheer, the highest ranking civil servant in France's Foreign Ministry, is due to meet Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Vaezi for a fourth round of talks between the two since last September.

At issue is a billion dollar loan extended by the late Shah of Iran in 1974 to help finance France's nuclear programme.

France has already repaid \$630 million, but is withholding the last tranche in a bid to win compensation for French firms which lost major contracts in the early days of the 1979 Islamic revolution which toppled the Shah.

The dispute over repayment has soured relations between the two countries for more than a decade.

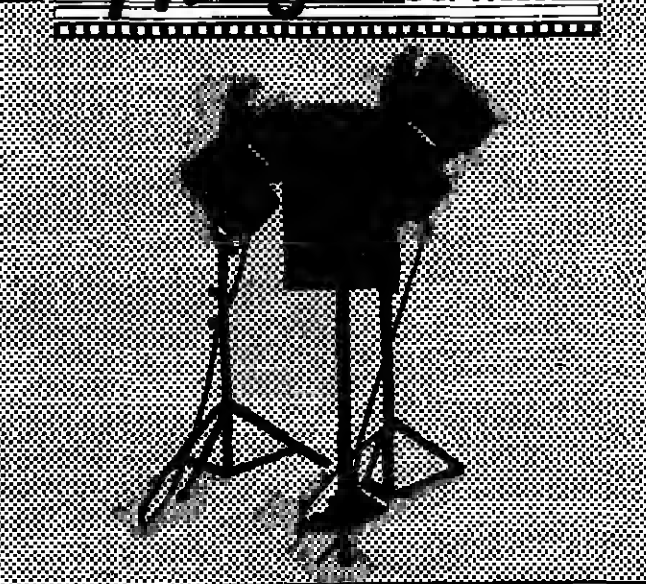
Scheer and Vaezi last met in Paris in January.

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Cairo trial

Death call for Khaled Nasser

CAIRO, April 3. (Agencies): A senior prosecutor renewed calls for the death sentence to be passed on eleven persons, including the eldest son of late Egyptian revolutionary leader Gamal Abdel Nasser, for leading a group which attacked Israeli and American targets, the semi-official daily Al-Ahram reported yesterday.

Assistant attorney-general Ragaa El Arabi was quoted as pressing the state security court examining the case to pass death sentences against the eleven defendants, "for their crimes against unarmed innocent civilians."

El Arabi called for sentences of life imprisonment with hard labour to be passed on nine other defendants, who also belong to the banned, anti-government "Egypt revolution" group.

El Arabi said that Nasser's eldest son Khaled, the leader of the underground group, and ten other members should face the death penalty because they were the leaders of the "Egypt revolution" group.

He charged Khaled, 40, with providing other gang members with arms and money to carry out the attacks.

"According to Egyptian law, all eleven leaders of this gang of no heroes must face the death penalty, and the other nine should serve life imprisonment with hard labour for the crimes they have committed against innocent unarmed civilians," El Arabi said.

Their crimes undermined

the country's national security, and were harmful to its national interests and to the interests of the Arab world," he said.

"They decided to attack Americans when they couldn't find Israelis easily," El Arabi said.

Egyptian security forces managed to smash the underground group, which wants to continue Nasser's Pan-Arab radical nationalism and socialism, three years ago after years of failure.

The group claimed responsibility for a series of attacks against Israeli and US targets between June 1984 and May 1987, in which two Israelis were killed, and five Israelis and two Americans were injured.

Khaled and a nephew of the late president Nasser were tried in absentia after fleeing the country. Police believe they are in Yugoslavia.

Eighteen defendants still in Egypt have pleaded not guilty to charges of murder, causing actual bodily harm, being members of a banned group, subversion and terrorism.

President Hosni Mubarak has warned against undermining the country's unity and said that attempts to carry out such an act will be dealt with harshly.

This warning came during a cabinet meeting, under Mubarak's chairmanship, during which the ministers were briefed on a report by Interior Minister Maj. Gen. Abdel Halim Moussa on recent events at the governorate of Matina.

Jordan to recall embassy officials

AMMAN, April 3. (AP): Prime Minister Mudar Badran's government decided yesterday to recall 40 Jordanian non-diplomatic officials from embassies in Western countries to save money.

Foreign Ministry Secretary-General Mutaseem Bilbeisi said the move was designed to cut a projected budget deficit of \$299.5 million this year by \$5 million. Jordan has a foreign debt of \$8.3 billion.

Bilbeisi told the Associated Press that the recall action was effective immediately and the embassy officials should return to Jordan before the end of June.

He said the decision would not affect embassy staff working in Arab countries.

Bilbeisi said the recall covers 22 counsellors and four cultural, four labour, two press, one health and seven commercial attaches. He did not say which embassies would be affected.

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Jerusalem panel to meet next Friday: The Organisation of Islamic Conference announced Monday that its Jerusalem committee will hold an emergency meeting Friday in Morocco to discuss the recent US Senate resolution recognising a unified Jerusalem as Israel's capital. The meeting of the Al Qods (Jerusalem) Committee, will be attended by more than a dozen Islamic foreign ministers, said the statement from the OIC headquarters in Jeddah.

It will be held in Rabat under its chairman, King Hassan II of Morocco. (AP)

Postpone municipal elections call: Tunisian party leaders proposed Monday postponing municipal elections for up to six months to give themselves more time to agree on a new voting system.

The elections should take place before the end of May and the way they are run is seen as a test of the government's commitment to multiparty democracy.

But politicians from five of the seven recognised parties, including the ruling Democratic Constitutional Union (RCD), said they favoured putting them off until they approve details of a new voting system with elements of proportional representation. (Reuters)

Hashemi visit not hostage-related: The visit to Lebanon late in March by Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani's brother was not related to the issue of the 18 Western hostages held by underground Shiite Muslim factions, a statement said Monday.

Mahmoud Hashemi's visit to Lebanon was for "humanitarian purposes and not linked to the hostages," said a statement by Hussein Mousawi one of the Shiite Lebanese leaders who met Rafsanjani's brother in Lebanon.

The conservative newspaper Ad-Diyar, based in Christian east Beirut, had reported that Hashemi met in the eastern Bekaa Valley last week with Mousawi and leaders of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah. (AP)

Eritrean rebels and Ethiopians meet: Four Eritrean rebel groups and Ethiopian officials met Monday for North Yemeni-sponsored peace talks that officials hope will develop into an overall peace conference involving other factions to end Africa's longest war.

The meeting opened Sunday night at the Yemeni Foreign Ministry after the Ifrah with which Muslims break the day's fast in the holy month of Ramadan.

Both sides stressed their desire to end the guerrilla war with a lasting political settlement before going into closed session. (AP)

Bomb kills a pro-Israeli militiaman: A roadside bomb blast killed one pro-Israeli militiaman and wounded two others in southern Lebanon Monday, security sources said.

The sources said the blast killed one south Lebanon army member and wounded two others near the village of Barchit, 9 miles (14 km) from the Israeli-Lebanese borders.

Fighters of the "Lebanese Resistance Front" planted the explosive charge, the sources said.

The SLA-run "Voice of the South" radio station said an explosive charge went off under an SLA vehicle on the Braachit-Beit Yuhoun road inside the security enclave, killing one of its member and wounding two others. (AP)

Morocco makes passport getting easier: Morocco announced Monday new measures to make it easier for citizens to obtain passports.

Interior Minister Driss Basri told journalists restrictions would only apply to people due in court or likely to offend public morals and damage the reputation of the state.

Although all Moroccans have the right to travel freely, in the past only people earning a certain income or with overseas work contracts and return air tickets tended to get passports.

Basri said all applications would be answered within one month and all citizens refused could appeal. Verdicts on appeals would be given within a month. (Reuters)

Egypt is under a constitutional 'dilemma'

CAIRO, April 3. (AP): The constitutionality of Egypt's Parliament is under fire in a court challenge that could lead to elections by this summer, two years before they're due.

The accompanying political row is typical of what Egyptians face in a continuing struggle to work out the kinks in a still-imperfect democratic system.

Egypt has come a long way from the single-party dominance that prevailed for more than two decades after Gamal Abdel Nasser overthrew King Farouk in 1952.

Nasser's successor, Anwar Sadat, res-

tored the multi-party system in the late 1970s, and allowed publication of newspapers proclaiming the opposition parties' message — though Sadat became impatient with their criticism and periodically cracked down.

Hosni Mubarak, who then came to the presidency, has since given government opponents wide-ranging freedom to criticize. They have made full use of it.

Scathing attacks in opposition newspapers frequently lead to shouting matches with state-owned publications. The two-way mud-slinging often spills over onto the parliamentary floor, where

there have been opposition walkouts — and even a few scuffles.

The government considers the parliamentary and media fights a safety valve, to have the opposition "let off steam," as one official put it.

But Egypt's politics remain dominated by a strong presidency which practically monopolizes foreign policy, while in domestic affairs, he keeps close tabs on the prime minister and his cabinet.

The administration's backbone is the National Democratic Party's 5-plus per cent majority in the 458-seat legislature, or People's Assembly. The party can

outvote the opposition anytime — though the opposition, with almost 100 seats, is the largest since republican Egypt began with Nasser's coup.

Kamal Khalid, 59, a lawyer registered as an independent, began the current political free-for-all with a suit in constitutional court renewing an earlier challenge he had raised to an oft-amended election law that dates from 1972, during the early Sadat years.

Khalid quickly found like-minded comrades within Egypt's five opposition parties.

They want the court to rule that the

election code violates constitutional guarantees of equal opportunity — and they want voting districts to be redrawn to ensure proportional balance between numbers of voters and number of parliamentary seats. Then they want new elections.

An advisory panel of jurists attached to the seven-member constitutional court recommended in a non-binding opinion that the court uphold Khalid's objections to the election law. The seven-member tribunal, the ultimate arbiter of Egypt's basic law, is expected to rule by early June.



Heavy smoke billows from the fuel tanks in battered east Beirut yesterday. Artillery men of Lebanese Forces militia shelled the tanks located in areas controlled by troops loyal to Gen. Aoun. (Reuters wirephoto)

Aoun urges new pact

British embassy suspends work

BEIRUT, April 3. (Reuters): General Michel Aoun, who rejected a 1989 Arab-brokered Lebanon peace plan, has urged Arab leaders to find a new pact that would satisfy all rival parties.

Official sources said yesterday Aoun, commander of half of Lebanon's 35,000-man army, has written to the leaders of Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Algeria and to the Arab League about the pact.

The three states sponsored last year's peace agreement by Lebanese deputies to end 15 years of war. The accord, reached in the Saudi city of Taif, entrenched powers between the long-dominant Christian Maronite community and the Muslim majority.

But it failed to include a clear timetable for a Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon, cited by Aoun as his main reason for rejecting it.

"I reiterate my government's readiness to fully co-operate with your committee's endeavours to achieve an understanding among the Lebanese parties and other sides concerned with solving the Lebanese crisis," said Aoun in the letters.

"I leave it to your good offices ... to choose the right frame, which could be Taif-2 or any other frame to achieve dialogue, the results of which would be comprehensive, just and practical," he said.

Aoun launched an unsuccessful six-month "war of liberation" last year with the intention of driving some 40,000 Syrian troops from Lebanon after rejecting the Taif peace pact.

The general, appointed in 1988 as head of a military interim government after parliament failed

to find a successor to former president Amin Gemayel, says he is Lebanon's only legitimate leader.

He challenged the authority of Syrian-backed President Elias Hrawi who was elected in November last year as a result of the internationally-backed Taif agreement.

Meanwhile, rival Christian armies slugged it out with artillery and rockets in snow-swept mountains northeast of Beirut on Monday as fires burned out of control in a deadlocked battle for control of the Christian enclave.

The snowfall blocked mountain roads and forced renegade Gen. Aoun's army troops and Samir Geagea's Lebanese Forces militia to exchange artillery fire without launching ground offensives.

The Bush administration strongly believes that a solution of the Lebanese conflict must be dealt with "on its own merits" and must not be pegged on a solution of the Middle East problem.

The administration has also not changed its mind that Lebanese Christian leader Gen. Aoun has been "an obstacle to Lebanese unity, reconciliation and peace" and "his resistance has meant further tragedy for Lebanon."

Christian militia chief Samir Geagea today recognised the authority of President Elias Hrawi in open defiance to Aoun.

Geagea also implicitly accepted an Arab-sponsored peace pact to end Lebanon's almost 15 years of civil war in an interview with the communist Voice of the People radio, saying it should open the way for a solution.

Palestinian build-up in Lebanon

WASHINGTON, April 3. (Kuna):

The State Department confirmed a report in the New York Times yesterday that the Palestinians have built up their armed forces in Lebanon.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said, "we are aware that the number of armed groups, including Palestinians, has increased in Lebanon."

She said that Lebanon's problems "are seriously compounded by the presence of any foreign forces or outside armed groups in that country."

Tutwiler reiterated the American position that "we seek the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon and the disarming of all militias."

She refused to go into any numbers, although the New York Times earlier said armed Palestinians in Lebanon now number about 11,000.

The Times quoted PLO officials as saying that in addition to the thousands of Palestinian fighters who have returned, the PLO has also recruited hundreds of new young men.

"The building has taken place while the weak Lebanese government has sought to establish its own authority and rival Christian factions have been fighting their own war for control of the country's Christian enclave," the New York Times said.

Israeli-PLO direct dialogue soon: Arafat

WASHINGTON, April 3. (Kuna): The President of Palestine, Yasser Arafat, believes that a direct dialogue between the Israeli government and the PLO will begin soon.

In an exclusive interview with 'Defense and Foreign Affairs Weekly' published today, the chairman of the PLO said that 'Israel is trying to swim against the current of history'.

Arafat noted that 'at a time when walls between the East and the West are coming down, Israel continues to be stubborn'.

He went on to say that the release of Nelson Mandela in South Africa and the developments in Eastern Europe should convince Israel that it could not hold onto the occupied territories forever.

In his interview with the weekly, the Palestinian leader also spoke about the thawing of relations between Egypt and Syria. He said that this move would further unity, co-ordination and co-operation in the Arab world.

Arafat said that the warming of ties between Egypt and Syria and between Egypt and Libya would allow the Arab mainstream to be able to play a more effective role in the Middle East peace process.

According to the Palestinian leader, the biggest threat to the Middle East peace process at this time is Israel's decision to settle Soviet Jews in the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He said, 'this is a crime not only against Palestine, but against the entire Arab world'. The goal behind this policy, according to Arafat, was 'to kick out Palestinians from the occupied territories and to merge the territories with Israel with an eye on forming a greater Israel'.

During the interview, Arafat showed a new Israeli coin on the back of which was a map of Israel showing its territory as extending from the Euphrates river to the Nile. Arafat said it was his conviction that unless a moderate administration takes office in Israel the Shamir administration was committed to enlarging Israel's borders.

Time running out for Peres

Mood inside Labour gloomy

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM,

April 3. (Agencies): Labour leader Shimon Peres is nearing a deadline which could end both his hopes of becoming Israel's next prime minister and his control over his own party.

Two weeks of his three-week mandate to form a government have passed, yet Peres has failed to persuade any supporters of acting Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to change sides and break a 60-60 deadlock in the 120-seat Parliament.

"I am very pessimistic about his prospects of forming a government," said Gad Barzilai, of Tel Aviv University. "If he does not succeed he will not be (Labour) leader for long."

The mood inside the Labour Party is now reported to be gloomy, while members of Shamir's Likud bloc talk confidently of getting their turn to form the government.

"I think the chance still exists," Labour Party chairman Micha Harish told Army Radio yesterday about Peres' hopes of becoming prime minister and opening Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

But Harish focused mainly on the problems Shamir would have in forming a government and said Israel would have to face elections if Peres failed to become prime minister.

Peres created the present situation by first, withdrawing his

Labour Party from the Likud-led government coalition over Shamir's refusal to open peace talks with Palestinians and then by directing Shamir's defeat in Parliament.

But a failure now by the Labour leader, who has not won a clear victory in four national elections since 1977, could ignite a rebellion by party members.

Israeli newspapers carried unattributed stories this week saying that senior figures in the party would give Peres only a few more days before turning to Labour's former Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin as a more charismatic leader.

Peres' three-week mandate to form a government expires next Monday. Although he would certainly seek a three-week extension from President Chaim Herzog, his failure to attract followers the first time around would not augur well for a second try.

This would give Shamir his chance to seek support, although his defeat in Parliament raised doubts whether he could form a new government without facing an election.

The secret to forging a government is attracting "swing votes" from the four religious parties, which control 18 of the 120 parliamentary seats.

Israelis, disgusted with the current backroom manoeuvring

to form a new government, are increasingly demanding electoral reform.

An opinion poll published yesterday in the Maariv newspaper showed 73 per cent favoured immediate reform of Israel's strict proportional representation system that leaves a small minority of ultra-orthodox rabbis holding the balance of power.

President Herzog met three reserve army officers on hunger strike outside Parliament to demand a change in the form of government and supported their cause, his office said.

The mayors of most major Israeli cities placed a joint advertisement in the Haaretz newspaper calling for a mass rally next Saturday to demand the direct election of the prime minister and a constituency electoral system.

The hunger strikers said they had collected thousands of signatures on a petition and vowed to continue their fast until the nation took to the streets.

Last week the rabbis scored an unprecedented victory when Parliament approved a state budget allocating three times more money to religious institutions than in 1989. Both Likud and Labour backed the increase in funding.

Many ultra-orthodox Israelis do not serve in the army and some do not even believe in the right of the state to exist.

Kahane faces sedition charges

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM,

April 3. (AP): US born Rabbi Meir Kahane went on trial in Jerusalem district court yesterday on charges of sedition for calling Arabs a "cancer spreading in our midst" at a rally protesting a bloody attack on Israelis last year.

Defence lawyers called the trial a test case for freedom of speech in Israel, and Kahane has won unexpected support from civil libertarians who argue the sedition law is too broad and vague.

Kahane, head of the anti-Arab Kach movement, said he didn't regret his July 7 speech. "I admit to the words, and I would say them again at another rally," Kahane told the Associated Press outside the courtroom.

Only about 20 Kahane followers and journalists attended the trial. Kahane, wearing a black suit and black skull cap, sat quietly during the four-hour hearing, occasionally shaking hands with supporters and browsing through his appointment calendar.

The sedition law has been criticised by civil rights advocates, including the Association for Civil Rights in Israel.

An Israeli court yesterday sentenced a Yugoslavian immigrant to three years in jail for supplying classified information to the PLO, Israel radio said.



Chagall works in Israel

Occupied Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek returned from a weekend trip to Paris clutching five suitcases filled with 200 works of art by the late Marc Chagall. The drawings, sketches and paintings by the Russian-born Jewish artist had been promised to the Israel Museum by the artist's daughter, Ida, more than 20 years ago. (Reuters wirephoto)

3 Palestinian leftist parties plan to unite

AMMAN, April 3. (AP): A top Palestinian Liberation Organisation official said yesterday three leftist Palestinian factions will unite.

"The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Palestinian Communist Party will unite in one leftist political party," said the official, who spoke on condition he not be identified.

He said that the project was partially prompted by recent events in the Soviet Union and East European countries "where the socialist bloc was completely diminished."

Referring to the liberalising policies of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, the PLO official said, "The proposed leftist party is considered a new Palestinian perestroika."

He said, "This new leftist party will strengthen the ranks of the different Palestinian factions in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip."

The PLO official said the plan was proposed by the Palestinian Communist Party recently and it has received "preliminary approval" from both the PFLP and the DFLP.

The leftist PFLP led by Dr George Habbash and the DFLP are the second and third largest groups in the PLO after Chairman Yasser Arafat's centrist Fatah faction, which controls an estimated 75 per cent of the PLO's membership and men under arms.

The Communist Party is one of the smallest of nine factions operating under the umbrella of the PLO.

The official said that some other Palestinian groups now outside the PLO "showed enthusiasm and interest to join our party." He did not elaborate, but he said that the new party will "form an organising pool under the umbrella of the PLO."

Disputes within various PLO factions have arisen since late last year over the Arab-Israeli peace process.

The PLO official said the union would be a solution to "organisational and political differences in the ranks of the PFLP, the DFLP and the Palestinian Communist Party."

US warns Afghan resistance over drug production and trafficking

ISLAMABAD, April 3. (UPI): The United States has warned Afghan resistance commanders it "cannot accept" a situation in which it is providing aid to the rebels while they are encouraging drug production and trafficking, a senior US official said yesterday.

Melvyn Levitsky, US Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics Matters, also told a news conference that he found during talks with senior anti-narcotics officials in Islamabad that Pakistan has a "strong commitment" to stem the drug trade but it still faced a "wholeroad" of problems.

"What we need to do is to be more effective in stemming drug abuse... more effective in law enforcement, more effective in interdiction, in going after major heroin labs and harassing these vicious criminal organisations," he said.

The US official said about 25 per cent of the heroin that reaches the United States comes from the so-called "golden crescent" area that includes Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran, while another 50 per cent is produced in Southeast Asia.

In Afghanistan, some rebel groups have allegedly been involved in the cultivation of opium and the production

and trafficking of heroin. Clashes have reportedly occurred in some areas between rival groups for control of the trade.

The United States provides arms to the rebels, known as mujahedeen in their 11-year-old war against the pro-Soviet government in Kabul.

"What we don't support and what we have made very clear to Mujahedeen commanders is that they must stay out of drugs and that they must discourage production of drugs," Levitsky said.

"We cannot accept a situation where we are giving assistance to the muja-

hedeen and they are encouraging drug production and drug trafficking."

He said the current communist government in Afghanistan is not "legally certified" as co-operation with the United States to control the drugs trade.

"So if now there is a new government in Afghanistan that expressed the self-determination of the Afghan people and was then recognized by the United States, the first issue we would encounter is — can we certify that government as co-operating fully with the United States according to our law?"

"The point we have made to the muja-

hedeen is that if there is considerable evidence that there is no co-operation but support for drug trafficking and drug production we would not be able to assist that government of Afghanistan," Levitsky said.

Her said that the Bush administration in the past year has concentrated its anti-narcotics efforts against the influx of cocaine, which is produced mostly in Latin America.

"We feel we are setting a handle on that," he said. But the official said experts feared the cocaine problem may now be followed by a heroin epidemic.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Energy file

Don't rely only on oil: Otaiba

ABU DHABI, April 3. (Opecna): United Arab Emirates Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Dr. Mansour Otaiba has called for his country to rationalise oil production so that reserves will last longer.

"The minister's appeal is made in a 1,800-page book entitled 'Oil and the UAE's Economy' published recently."

"We should utilise oil as the main financier of economic and social development in the UAE and other producers," he asserts.

"This should prompt us to enter all stages of petroleum industries and produce at levels which only meet demand so that we will live longer," he adds.

Otaiba maintains that a percentage of oil revenues, "say around 20 per cent" should be added to the state's financial reserves.

The minister stresses the importance of co-ordination and integration among Arab and Gulf states to face international and regional changes.

He also urges the creation of other sources of national income to avert the danger of reliance on oil.

The publication also covers essential and structural developments in the oil industry at local and international level.

"These developments triggered new changes in global oil relations, including co-operation between Opec and independent oil producers for the sake of stability of the market," he points out.

Otaiba declares that a boost in international ties coupled with an "improved global atmosphere" had made a positive impact on the oil sector.

An oil drilling company from the United Arab Emirates will explore for crude in South Yemen, according to its Director General Mohammed Bin Salem.

He disclosed that his company, Bin Ham, which is based in Abu Dhabi had acquired the rights to explore for oil in an area covering 14,000 sq. km in South Yemen's north San'a block.

■ Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul-Rahman Al-Chalabi left for Tokyo today for a four-day official visit to seek Japanese funds to boost Iraq's oil production capacity, the official Iraqi news agency (INA) reported.

■ It quoted Chalabi as saying he would have talks with officials and businessmen on Japanese investment in the expansion of Iraq's oil production capacity and other oil projects.

■ Egypt announced yesterday new crude oil export prices reflecting two consecutive cuts totalling \$1.50 dollars a barrel for most grades since mid-March.

An Oil Ministry spokesman also disclosed the export price of a fifth blend, Ras Al-Bihar and Khalij Al Zeit, which he said is superior quality to the old, top-grade Gulf of Suez.

The price cuts were the fourth and fifth in a row this year.

■ Saudi Arabia has decided to reduce prices of liquefied petroleum gas exported to Japan by 10.3 per cent for April, according to a Japanese paper today.

The Nihon Keizai said that the prices will thus be \$109.3 per tonne of propane gas and \$107.53 per tonne of butane gas.

■ Qatar is to invite tenders soon for the overhaul of the country's three offshore oilfields, in a bid to extend their working life by another 30 years, the "Gulf Times" newspaper has reported in Doha.

■ Ministers of mineral resources and oil in the Arab Co-operation Council (ACC) will hold their first meeting in Amman later this month to discuss co-operation, the state-run news Agency Petra said yesterday.

It said the ministers of Egypt, North Yemen, Iraq and Jordan would open their conference on April 23. The ACC was founded in February 1989.

■ Qatar will cut crude output by around 70,000 barrels per day (BPD) in September for a major overhaul of its three ageing offshore oil platforms Gulf industry sources said today.

US 'getting serious' about energy future

Watkins calls for re-examination of strategy

WASHINGTON, April 3. (AP): Secretary of Energy James D. Watkins said yesterday the US government is "getting very serious" about conservation and the environment as it calls for re-examination of dozens of ideas for stabilising the nation's energy future.

Watkins released a 230-page interim report on a proposed energy strategy, listing possibilities that include strict conservation requirements and government-financed development of renewable

alternative fuels, such as solar power or hydroelectric power.

Such steps would be contrary to policies of former president Ronald Reagan, who favoured leaving energy issues to the marketplace and advocated doing away with the energy department.

Watkins' interim report: national energy strategy, signals Bush's determination to "get the best public dialogue going in the history of energy policy," said Deputy Secretary W. Henson Moore.



Executives pray

Executives of Tokyo stock companies offer prayers to steady the volatile markets at Kabuto Shrine near the Tokyo Stock Exchange yesterday. Tokyo stocks bounced back to close broadly higher in a seaway day of moderate trade after plunging 6.6 per cent on Monday. (Reuters wirephoto) Refer to page 11.

Call for co-operation

Enough oil for 50 years

Opec pledge

KUWAIT, April 3. (AP): The Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, Opec, called yesterday for upgrading co-operation between oil producing and consuming countries.

The Kuwait-based organisation said this was a necessity for expanding production capacity to meet the requirements of the world's economic growth.

Opec warned in the editorial of the April issue of its monthly bulletin of "obstacles" to this objective such as raising taxes on oil products and "exaggeration" of the polluting effect of oil consumption in the industrialised countries.

"The repeated talk about raising taxes on oil products and imposing duties on oil imports in the consuming countries only serves to exacerbate the exporting countries' dilemma," Opec said.

Warning against the campaign in the industrial countries that it said portrayed oil as the most polluting energy source, the Opec bulletin said: "Coal is more harmful and nuclear power is more dangerous, as the Chernobyl disaster demonstrated so poignantly."

"If true world economy is to be achieved, a frank, constructive dialogue must be established between producers and consumers, industrial and developing countries. Only this way can the obstacles be overcome and bridges built, leading to a clearer picture of future world oil demand," it said.

Opec groups 11 Arab oil countries, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Algeria, Libya, Bahrain, Syria, Egypt and Tunisia. The first seven, double as members of the 13-nation, Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Opec Secretary-General Subroto, who uses only one name, has been warning that rising world oil demand for Opec crude could result in a world oil crisis if the Opec member states were not helped with developing their production capacity to meet such demand.

Opec also noted in its bulletin that oil-producing countries, including Arab producers, would need large amounts of money to expand their production capacity to cope with the world demand for oil until the end of the century.

"Some oil observers have voiced concern about the source of necessary financing for expanding production capacity to meet the expected increase in demand between now and the end of the century and maintain a margin of flexibility," the bulletin said.

The Opec report said that oil-producing countries could rely on their own reserves to finance this expansion or on foreign funds as "capital always flows to

the most secure and profitable investments."

"The real obstacle to expanding production capacity is uncertainty about how oil demand in the consuming countries will fare," it said. "Oil markets are still swayed heavily by transient factors and long-term consumption forecasts are subject to constant revision."

The organization reported the oil reserves of Opec's eleven member states stand at 600 billion barrels, indicating Arab oil producers would continue to supply industrialized countries with oil needs "for many decades."

As a result, total output of the 13-nation group "looks set to touch the 24 million barrel-a-day mark in April," PIW said.

Opec, which pumps more than a third of the world's crude oil, agreed in November to limit its daily output to 22 million barrels daily for the first six months of 1990 in an effort to keep world prices firm.

Instead PIW said, "the spring surge seems to reflect a priority on securing markets and satisfying clients in disregard of production quotas and the slide in crude prices."

In previous meetings allocating quotas, Saudi Arabia has always insisted that its share of total Opec production not slip below 24 pc.

Efficiency, quality drive

KFTCIC looks West

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

KFTCIC, the largest investment house in Kuwait, is seeking to raise its professional standards as it focuses on the Western markets and watches for opportunities in Western Europe.

The company has appointed a consulting firm to devise a performance measurement system it plans to introduce within this year. KFTCIC general manager Youssef Al Hassawi has said.

This means the staff will work against set criteria that will be used to evaluate their performance.

The move is expected to raise the competitive spirit by rewarding high performers. More importantly, it will enable the management to get rid of the deadwood.

"Everyone will be given a chance. Those who perform well will not have to wait for a bonus until the end of the year," Hassawi said of the new scheme.

The size of the bonus will be determined by company's profits and the employee's performance. Those who do not reach a minimum standard will be fired and the company will not be partial to Kuwaitis, Hassawi insisted.

In an earlier move to streamline its operation the company turned its departments into profit centres, with each unit expected to generate enough income to cover its costs and make a profit.

KFTCIC (Kuwait Foreign Trading, Contracting and Investment Company) has a staff of 320 with 90 Kuwaitis. Eighty-five per cent of its executives are Kuwaitis.

In the past the company recruited the nationals without restraint. Many were graduate or undergraduate students who were sent for instruction abroad or were given on-the-job training. But over the years the management has found it difficult to motivate them.

"We gave them special attention and encouragement including pay raises and promotion. We treated them carefully. And still no Kuwaiti



Youssef Al Hassawi

likes to work in the back office, which is very important for our business," said Hassawi.

The management is currently more selective in hiring the Kuwaitis, but it is the firing that poses a greater problem.

Hassawi admits that dismissing a Kuwaiti has always been a sensitive issue but says he is convinced that the new evaluation of employees' work will help the company ease out the non-performers.

The focus on efficiency comes as the company, which largely concentrates on overseas portfolio management, faces intense competition from a multitude of foreign banks and investment houses.

"The whole world is in competition with us in fund management," Hassawi said.

The worldly-wise Kuwaiti investors, although comfortable in dealing with local firms would not entrust their funds to a company solely on the grounds that it is Kuwaiti. They keep the KFTCIC on its toes by continuously measuring its performance against that of the overseas institutions. "Ninety-nine per cent of our clients also have portfolios with foreign banks which enables them to compare our results with theirs. This is why we have to give them special service," explains Hassawi.

The drive towards greater efficiency and better management was in part the result of some painful lessons learnt in the 1980s.

KFTCIC, which is 99.2 per

cent government owned and one of the oldest investment houses in Kuwait, fell on hard times when its assets plunged after the Manakh stock market crash. As if that was not enough trouble the company's loans to the Third World countries went sour. With all of its hidden reserves sapped the firm restructured its capital twice, in 1985 and 1987, and after a capital injection of KD100 million by the Kuwait Investment Authority it made a small profit in 1988. It sold its Latin American debt at 51 per cent in 1987, a good and timely ride, says Hassawi, as its current price is just over 20 per cent.

The company also swapped its direct investments in the Third World countries and turned its attention to the West in a move that was more than merely a geographical shift. These investments, mostly yielding poor returns were taken over by Kuwait Real Estate and Investment Consortium, KFTCIC instead began concentrating its efforts on Western Europe, North America and the Far East where it has been particularly successful in securities portfolio management.

In Europe the company is increasingly looking eastwards although Hassawi says it is too early to make commitments. However KFTCIC hopes that its joint venture with West Germany's Berliner Bank will help it make inroads into the Eastern Europe after the unification of two Germanys. The company is presently considering two other schemes with a similar purpose in mind, but so far these remain a business secret.

Moves to improve efficiency will also stand KFTCIC in good stead in the event of mergers in Kuwait's banking sector. Hassawi, who favours the idea, insists that the sector needs a "clean up" before mergers are put into action. "They have to start healthy and that will take time," he said. He said KFTCIC views a merger with a commercial bank as beneficial but would not consider merging with another investment company.

Panel warns over policies

US economy outlook

WASHINGTON, April 3. (Reuters): A key congressional committee said today Americans needed to save and invest more to remain competitive in global markets and expressed concern about what it called self-defeating budget policies that hurt long-term growth.

"Reducing the budget deficit and increasing incentives for private saving and investment are both important," the US congressional joint economic committee said in its annual report on the economy.

"Proposals to reduce the budget deficit that impose serious disincentives for private saving and investment, or that seriously impair productive federal investment in education and infrastructure, are self-defeating in terms of economic growth."

Lawmakers have been grappling with ways to reduce the \$150 billion federal budget deficit, which critics say is increasing US reliance on foreign capital, particularly Japanese, and keeping US interest rates higher than they might be.

But Republican President George Bush has opposed raising taxes and the Democrat-controlled Congress has been reluctant to cut spending for social programmes.

"We cannot allow ourselves to be paralysed by the current budget situation; throwing money after problems is not a viable policy," the report said.

It also expressed concern about intervening in currency markets as a way to influence the dollar's value.

The report said the success of US firms relative to their global competitors and the attractiveness of US investments would determine the dollar's strength or weakness.

"Intervention to calm disorderly foreign exchange markets can be justified," the report said. "But it is a dangerous and potentially expensive game to try to outguess the market about the underlying value of the dollar."

Finance ministers and the Central Bank governors of the seven major industrial nations — the United States, Japan, Britain, Italy, Canada, France and West Germany — meet in Paris on Saturday to discuss international exchange rate co-ordination.

The report also said efforts by policymakers to try to reduce the trade deficit by import restrictions or export subsidies could run into trouble. "In many respects, the trade deficit too is an artifact of underlying policies and economic conditions and not directly manipulable by policymakers."

Democrats on the panel said they believed the economic growth enjoyed by the country in the 1980's "has been built on a foundation of borrowed money."

The US manufacturing economy weakened in March for the 11th consecutive month, but the rate of decline was the slowest since last June due to a sharp rise in production and new export orders, according to a survey of the nation's purchasing managers released yesterday.

Business Briefs

Private investment

BAGHDAD, April 3. (AP): Iraqi businessmen invested nearly 1 billion dinars (\$3 million) in projects since the government launched a privatisation programme in 1987, the Trade Ministry said yesterday.

The director of the companies registration department said that more than 692 million dinars (about \$2.1 billion) were invested last year in new agricultural, industrial and services projects.

The official, who was not named, said 767 new companies were set up in 1989 after the government eased restrictions to encourage the private sector to invest in the economy.

Bank profits

BAHRAIN, April 3. (Reuters): Masraf Fayal Al Islami of Bahrain, one of the island's two offshore Islamic banks, said yesterday its net profit for the year 1989 rose 16 per cent to \$5.03 million.

The bank, which is a subsidiary of the Bahamas-based Dar Al Mal Al Islami group, said in a statement its income after paying profits on customers' investments leaped 38.5 per cent to \$13.5 million.

Assets grew by 26 per cent to \$93.4 million in 1989.

Saudi standards

WASHINGTON, April 3. (Kuna): In an effort to bring consistency in business transactions, a US- Arab trade group and a US Commerce Department branch have agreed to develop more consistent standards for Saudi Arabia. The Commerce Department announced.

The standards request was initially made by the kingdom, according to Commerce officials.

Under the terms of the joint effort, the department's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the private American-Saudi Business Roundtable Inc. would provide assistance on standards to the Saudi Arabia specifications and Standards Organisation (SASO).

Short dates active

KUWAIT, April 3. (Reuters): Short dates were active in the Kuwaiti interbank deposit market, dealers said.

'Kuwait will cut deficit'

KUWAIT, April 3. (Kuna): A senior official has disclosed in a press statement today that the deficit in the country's budget for fiscal 1991-92 will be markedly slashed thanks to the government's wise financial policy.

The official, whose name was not revealed, told a Kuwaiti daily newspaper that the state budget had been almost completed and noted that the government had allocated as usual a particular item for appointing Kuwaiti graduates of various universities and institutes.

The paper recalled that Finance Minister Jassem Al-Khorafi had held intensified meetings with various government officials to discuss the country's future trends in different spheres and projects.

Answering a question, the source said biggest portion of the hard debt problem had been settled and that all concerned parties were responding positively but said he could not set a definite date for ending the settlement process.

Kuwaiti dinar trading steady

GENEVA, April 3. (Kuna): At the start of foreign exchange trading in Switzerland today, one Kuwaiti dinar was trading at 5.0929 Swiss francs, as against 5.1060 at the close of trading last evening, the Swiss-Kuwaiti Bank reported.

Against the dinar, the German mark opened at 5.7700 (\$7.744), the pound sterling 2.0733 (\$2.0814), Japanese yen 539.3380 (\$41.8104), and the US dollar (3.3927).

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BUSINESS

Japan, US in trade talks

WASHINGTON, April 3, (AP): Japanese negotiators, professing new willingness to compromise on US demands for economic reform, began pivotal talks yesterday aimed at reducing rising trade frictions between the two economic superpowers.

President George Bush, who received an early-morning call from Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, said he was optimistic that the latest round of discussions will produce results.

"I had a very fruitful conversation with the prime minister of Japan this morning and we will see. But I must say I am encouraged by recent progress," Bush told reporters in Atlanta, Georgia.

The administration last July launched the talks, known as the Structural Impediments Initiative, aimed at addressing traditional barriers in Japan that act against the sale of foreign products and services in Japan.

The discussions are intended to address economic obstacles in both countries that are seen as primary reasons for America's \$49-billion trade deficit with the Japanese, almost half of last year's total deficit.

Three earlier rounds of discussions had produced little progress, but then Bush and Kaifu met a hastily arranged summit a month ago in California. Kaifu at that time pledged to make economic reforms a top priority.

Competition

The administration has argued that the proposed changes to scrap exclusionary business practices and open Japan to more foreign competition would not only benefit Americans by lowering the trade deficit but would also benefit the Japanese, who currently pay some of the highest prices in the world for consumer goods.

Kaifu told Bush yesterday that he was dispatching two high-level emissaries, former Japanese ambassador Nobuo Matsunaga and Deputy Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada, to Washington to express his personal commitment to resolving the dispute.

Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman Taizo Watanabe told reporters that the Japanese were bringing a new set of proposals for discussion. He said the Japanese initiatives were being taken to fight off rising protectionist pressures and to benefit Japanese consumers.

Watanabe refused to discuss details of the Japanese package. However, there were published reports that Japanese negotiators will propose liberalizing Japanese law to make it easier for large retail stores likely to carry imported products to open in Japan.

US retailers face delays of up to 10 years because of the current law.

The Japanese negotiators also reportedly will set forth a package of increased penalties for violations of anti-monopoly laws and lay out plans for increased spending on public works projects, also a demand of US negotiators.

Watanabe said the Japanese actions were not being taken under threat of US retaliation. He said the Japanese side felt it was important to show they had made the "utmost effort" to resolve the disputes.

The Bush administration is reviewing barriers against US products with a congressional imposed deadline on April 30 to target countries with the most onerous barriers for intensive negotiations.

The Japanese government, which was targeted last year, hopes to avoid being singled out again, although members of Congress are already calling for Japan to be cited, regardless of the outcome of the current discussions.

Last year, the Japanese were targeted for alleged barriers against US-made supercomputers, satellites and wood products. In recent days, negotiators have reached agreements in principle to resolve the satellite and supercomputer issues and will meet again later this month in an effort to expand the Japanese market for sales of US lumber.

Washington is reporting progress in tough talks aimed at reforming Japan's economic structure, but economists say any changes that result are likely at first to benefit Japanese consumers more than American exporters.

"The only thing the structural impediments discussions will do is make Japan more competitive, so if you're not here on the ground floor, it will make it more difficult," said Paul Summerville, chief economist at Jardine Fleming (Securities) Ltd.

EEC proposes plan to help Gatt fight trade pirates

GENEVA, April 3, (AP): The European Economic Community yesterday submitted a detailed proposal to trade negotiators for new international rules to protect rights to intellectual property such as patents, copyright and trademarks.

The text, the most comprehensive tabled to date in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade talks, provides for the enforcement of the proposed regulations by national legislation, including compensation for victims of infringements.

New accords on intellectual property rights and 14 other sectors or world trade are due to be signed by Gatt's 96 members in

December at the end of a four-year round of negotiations.

While the so-called Uruguay round talks on areas such as agriculture and textiles are designed to liberalise global commerce, any agreement on intellectual property is likely to increase protection.

The United States, the 12-nation European bloc and Japan have pressed for more stringent rules within the forum of Gatt.

However, some developing countries led by India have argued that ready access to know-how is essential to their development and that it should not be controlled

through Gatt.

But Peter Carl Mogens, an EEC negotiator, argued that better protection of patents would encourage voluntary transfer of technology to the Third World by alleviating patent owners' fears about infringements of their rights.

Mogens said he was confident of support for the proposal from some developing countries. He said the provisions reflected recent or planned revisions to domestic law in Mexico and certain South East Asian countries.

Thailand, the Philippines and Malaysia are among those who have increased protec-

tion to intellectual property as a result of threats of unilateral retaliation from the United States.

The EEC proposal would rule out any such unilateral action.

The draft, to be discussed by negotiators at Gatt's headquarters in Geneva, covers the main seven intellectual property areas: Copyright, trademarks, geographical indications, patents, semi-conductors, trade secrets and industrial designs.

It lays down minimum standards for the protection of copyright, including the rights of authors, performers and broadcast organisations. It fixes the term of protection

at 25-50 years.

It would set a 10-year protection period for trademarks and 20 years for patents.

Under the EEC proposal all Gatt member states would comply with existing provisions of two intellectual property conventions administered by world intellectual property organisation (Wipo) and with additional commitments set out in the community next.

These new commitments included enforcement procedures that would allow customs authorities to seize, forfeit and destroy goods that infringed protection rules, and imposition of fines or prison sentences on

"trade pirates."

Disputes would be submitted to existing Gatt procedures for resolving differences between trading partners, and countries would undertake not to resort to unilateral reprisals against a suspected infringing state.

Delegate sources said this provision would prevent such action as the punitive tariffs the United States imposed in 1989 on imports from Brazil in retaliation for what Washington said was misappropriation of US pharmaceutical patents.

At present there are few substantive internationally-agreed rules to protect patents, Mogens said.



Stock dealers emerge from the Tokyo Stock Exchange for lunch time after the morning session on Tuesday. Tokyo share prices ended easier at mid-day after a morning tug-of-war between sellers and bargain hunters. The 225-share Nikkei index was down 77.19 points, or 0.28 per cent at 27,924.88. (Reuters wirephoto)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Interest rates reduced: The Bank of France, taking advantage of a low inflation rate and the strength of the franc, reduced its key intervention rate by one quarter of a percentage point Monday to 9.75 per cent from 10 per cent.

The Central Bank said in a statement that the decision to lower the key interest rate had been motivated "by the improvement registered by prices during the past few months and the good standing of the franc in the exchange markets."

The French franc has strengthened in recent weeks against major foreign currencies, with the rate against the Deutschmark dropping to 3.3612 francs per mark Monday from 3.4100 marks in January. (UPI)

'Japanese make better cars': The Japanese make better cars, the chairman of Ford Motor Co. says.

"If you look at the Japanese, I think we're equal to some and not as good as the best," Harold Poling told the Detroit News in a story published Sunday. "Our objective is to get there."

Poling said operational costs, not technology, put the big three automakers at a disadvantage.

"Can we get plants in the United States to produce vehicles as inexpensively as the Japanese do? You bet," he said. "But that requires shutting down your plants and starting from scratch. We can't do that." (AP)

Salomon brothers in E. Berlin: Salomon Brothers, the international investment bank, announced Monday it plans to open a representative office in East Berlin.

The office will be staffed by German professionals from Salomon Brothers' West German subsidiary, Salomon Brothers AG, Frankfurt, the announcement said.

The bank said a presence in East Berlin would enable it to serve German and international clients who have an interest in doing business in East Germany.

The move became possible after the East German government opened the Berlin Wall last fall, and the East German elections in March paved the way toward a market-oriented economy. (Kuna)

Regional headquarters: More than half Hong Kong's multinational corporations are considering shifting their regional headquarters from the troubled British colony, and Singapore heads the list of alternatives according to a survey released Monday.

Some 62 per cent of the 50 firms polled by Business International said they would decide whether to relocate within two or three years. More than 32 per cent said chronic staff shortages and turnovers were major operating problems and would affect their decision.

Hong Kong reverts to China in 1997 at the expiration of Britain's 99-year lease on the prosperous colony. (UPI)

New East German bank opens: A new East German bank opened for business on Monday, aiming to support enterprises in the country's fledgling democracy after 40 years of communist rule. Deutsche Kreditbank AG, with some 9,000 employees and branches across East Germany, is a key part of plans by the East German authorities to help make the transition to a market economy by encouraging business long smothered by the state.

Bank board chairman Edgar Most told the official ADN news agency that the first figures on new accounts opened, loans made and the bank funds would be published later this month. (Reuters)

Nissan in Europe: Nissan Motor Co. said Tuesday its subsidiaries responsible for co-ordinating the company's overall activities in North America and Europe have started operations.

The Tokyo-based company said Nissan Europe NV in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, will co-ordinate vehicle and forklift production, marketing and distribution and other activities by its subsidiaries located in Europe.

The company said Nissan Europe, established in April last year, will initially be responsible for co-ordinating sales activities in the European market. It will gradually be integrated into the centre for managing product development, manufacturing and sales, the company said. (UPI)

'Invisible workforce': Women are the world's invisible workforce, the United Nations' International Labour Organisation said in a report published on Monday.

Millions of working women are simply ignored in labour statistics, giving a distorted view of reality and leading to misguided economic policies or even the neglect of women in development strategies, the report said.

The legions of "invisible" women can be found everywhere from Third World agriculture to family businesses in industrial nations such as Britain and France, it added. (Reuters)

Polish unemployment soars: The number of Poles without work climbed to more than a quarter of a million in March from less than 10,000 at the start of the year, official figures released on Monday showed.

A Labour Ministry spokesman said 266,572 people were registered as jobless on March 30, up from 152,190 at the end of February.

Unemployment, theoretically non-existent under the previous communist administration which collapsed last year, has shot up from 9,600 since Jan 1 when the new Solidarity-led government introduced tough austerity measures to curb hyperinflation and create a market economy. (Reuters)

Bulgaria devalues currency: The embattled communist government sharply devalued the Bulgarian leva against the US dollar on Monday, the state news agency said, bringing it in line nearly with black market rates.

The BTA news agency also said the Communist Party newspaper has changed its name, and informed sources said communists plan to rename their party Tuesday to an apparent effort to distance themselves from their hardline past.

The state news agency BTA said Bulgarians travelling abroad will have to pay up to four times more for US dollars or other convertible currencies, though it gave no details about the exchange rate of other Western currencies. (AP)

Marubeni obtains stake: Major Japanese trading firm Marubeni Corp. reported it has acquired 21.3 per cent equity in ICM Farm Products Pty Ltd of Melbourne, Australia for 7.75 million Australian dollars.

The company said the acquisition is aimed at strengthening ties with the Australian firm from which the company has been importing high-grade beef since 1985.

ICM Farm Products is the beef production division of the Australian Farm Products Business Group, ICM Australia, the company said. The company said it will expand imports of grain-fed, high-grade beef from the Australian partner. (UPI)

Tokyo stocks bounce back

Dollar drops against Japanese yen

TOKYO, April 3, (AP): Prices on the Tokyo Stock Exchange rose sharply today in nervous, roller-coaster trading, as the US dollar dropped against the Japanese yen.

The 225-share Nikkei stock average gained a hefty 757.65 points, or 2.7 per cent, ending the day at 28,757.65. In morning trading, the index first rose more than 500 points, then fell below the 28,000-point line.

The index rose again in the afternoon as participants decided that the

market had bottomed out in the morning, said Yoshiro Inoue, an analyst with Nomura Securities Co.

He said market players expect the index will stay above the 27,000-point level, 30 per cent below where it stood at the end of last year.

Inoue said another encouraging sign was the stability of government bond prices, which remained relatively steady despite yesterday's losses in the stock market.

BOJ sees no reason for yen's weakness

TOKYO, April 3, (UPI): Bank of Japan Governor Yasuhiro Mieno told parliament today he sees no reason for the yen's weakness and the Central Bank will try to bolster it in co-ordination with other monetary powers.

"I see no reason for the yen's weakness. Non-economic factors are responsible for the yen's slide and the Central Bank will try to stabilize its rubric-o-ordination with other countries," Mieno told a lower house committee.

Mieno expressed concern over inflationary pressure at home and the Central Bank is closely watching effects of the latest discount rate hike on price movements.

The Central Bank raised the key interest rate by 1.0 point to 5.25 per cent March 20. It was the fourth discount rate hike since early last year.

Mieno said political conditions at home and abroad also contributed to the yen's weakness. He cited concern over inflation in West Germany in connection with German reunification as another adverse factor.

Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto told the same committee Japan has no plan to set a particular zone for the yen's price against other currencies.

"Such target zones would induce speculative moves rather than help stabilize the yen's value," he said.

He said exchange rates were affected by speculative factors although they should be decided by fundamental economic strength in each nation.

"We should refrain from excessive intervention," he said. "But we will make efforts to give market players psychological stability."

Hashimoto earlier told reporters the forthcoming meeting of the group of seven Western industrialized nations in Paris on Saturday is not intended to discuss ways to support Japan's faltering financial markets.

Hashimoto will represent Japan at the Paris meeting.

Muscle-flexing intervention in currency markets by the Bank of Japan (BOJ) is no longer effective in propping up the staggering yen, analysts say.

"They seem to have come to a dead end as far as intervention goes," said Hiroaki Shimizuoka, a manager at Sumitomo bank. "And they must know it."

The Central Bank spent a record 1.107 trillion yen (\$7.2 billion) in March to defend the yen in currency markets, the Ministry of Finance said in a monthly report released on Monday.

But traders said this huge investment had only slowed the yen's slide.

Based on an average yen/dollar rate of 153.19 yen in March, the bank spent the equivalent of \$7.6 billion in defence of the Japanese currency, the figures show.

"There was a more intense effort at the beginning of the month when they were desperately trying to hold the line at 150 yen to the dollar," said Yoshiro Okabe, senior manager at Midland Bank. "They seemed ready to give up by month-end."

First Airbus A320 delivered to Amman

THE first of six Airbus A320s ordered by Royal Jordanian has been delivered to Amman, according to the Airbus News. The airline also holds four options for the type.

"The Airbus A320 is the most advanced and efficient aircraft available in its category for the modernisation of our fleet," says Royal Jordanian Chairman of the Board, Hassan Abu Khaldoun, "and will provide us with the passenger capacity that we need at the best operating economy."

Royal Jordanian plans to use the A320s to expand its operations on its Middle East and Gulf

regional network as well as to diversify its routes to Europe.

The aircraft, powered by CFM International CFM56-5 engines seats 144 passengers in a two-class layout (twelve in first and 132 in economy).

Royal Jordanian consolidates its position as one of the major Airbus Industrie customers in the part of the world," says Airbus Industrie Managing Director Jean Pierson, "and we are extremely proud that one of the leading airlines with a justified reputation for excellence, becomes the first A320 operator in the Middle East."

Tokyo shares

Nikkei stock average: 28759.72 (+757.65)	
Volume: 650 mil shs	
Yen exchange rate: 158.95	
Name of stock	
Advantest Corp.	
Aijomoto	
Alps Electric	
Amada	
Asahi Chem Ind.	
Asahi Glass	
C. Itoh Co.	
Canon Inc.	
Casio Comp.	
Dai Nippon Printing	
Daiichi Seiyaku	
Dainippon Ph.	
Daishinku Corp.	
Eisai	
Fanuc Ltd.	
Fuji Photo	
Fujitsu Ltd.	
Hitachi Credit	
Hitachi Koki	
Hitachi Ltd.	
Hitachi Metal	
Honda Motor Co.	
Ito Yokado Co.	
Kajima Corp.	
Kawasaki H.I.	
Kobe Cast Iron	
Kokusai Elec.	
Komatsu Ltd.	
Kyocera Corp.	
Maru	
Provided by Nomura Investment Banking (Midland), Bahrain	

G-7 to meet on April 7

Dollar down, gold prices up

LONDON, April 3, (AP): The dollar declined against other key currencies except the British pound in European trading today.

Gold rose.

In Tokyo, the dollar closed at 158.95 yen, down 1.00 yen from yesterday's close. Later in London, the dollar traded at 000.00 yen.

Toru Kanai, a Foreign Exchange analyst with New Japan Securities Co. in Tokyo, said market players avoided major moves before the meeting among finance ministers from the group of seven industrialized nations scheduled for April 7, as well as the conclusion of the US-Japan structural impediments initiative trade talks in Washington.

Kanai said the dollar was likely to continue to rise because market demand for the US currency remained strong, and there was little incentive to buy the yen.

Other dollar rates at mid morning compared with late yesterday:

1.7024 West German marks, down from 1.7032

1.5024 Swiss francs, down from 1.5068

5.7175 French francs, down from 5.7300

1.9145 Dutch guilders, down from 1.9193

1.250.25 Italian lire, down from 1,254.25

1.1667 Canadian dollars,

down from 1.1690

The British pound was quoted at \$1.6295, compared with \$1.6300 late yesterday.

London's major gold dealers fixed a recommended price of \$374.80 per troy ounce this morning, from \$368.95 per ounce late yesterday.

In Zurich, the bid price was \$374.25, up from \$368.75 late yesterday.

In Hong Kong, gold rose 78 cents to close at \$371.94 per troy ounce today.

Silver rose in London to a bid price of \$4.99 a troy ounce, from yesterday's \$4.96.

In New York, the dollar was broadly higher in New York trading yesterday as traders took profits on West German marks amid controversy over monetary union with East Germany and sold British pounds on London's weekend stride.

Currency dealers said another dollar surge against the Japanese yen halted on the brink of the psychologically important 160:1 mark. Profit-taking and possible discrete Central Bank intervention were cited, as well as wariness of a group of seven meeting set for Saturday in Paris.

Traders said a heated German controversy over the rate at which East German marks will be converted to hard Deutsche marks under a monetary union plan heightened market uncertainties, inducing mark-selling.



Kuwait's fourth annual raft race

Under the patronage of the Capital Governor Sheikh Jaber Al Abdullah Al Jaber Al Sabah, Messilah Beach Hotel will hold its annual raft race for the 4th consecutive year on Friday May 11, 1990.

The event is sponsored for the second running year by the Kuwaiti Danish Dairy Company K.D.D. and promoted by Winston Cigarettes and Jashanmal & Partners Ltd.

Rival teams are busy preparing rafts and planning tactics for the different category of races including:

1. Welded Category — Governor's Trophy a) Men's b) Ladies' c) Mixed;
2. Wood & Rope Category — Messilah Beach Hotel trophy a) MBH b) Best Constructed c) Plate Competition; 3. Carnival Category a) Winston Best Constructed Trophy b) Jashanmal Best Dressed Crew Trophy c) Best Carnival Overall

We at MBH hope to create Gulf-wide interest to turn Raft Racing into an international event. Invitations have been extended to Dubai and Abu Dhabi to participate. The MBH team has been participating for the last two years in the Dubai Races with very impressive results.

Entertainment throughout the day includes live music by the Rainbow Band and others. The day also includes games for children, stalls, B.B.Q. & snacks catered by Showbiz Pizza Palace. Attractive prizes will be drawn on the entry tickets.

Application forms are still available for participation teams, but not for long. If you are interested, make sure you attend one of the forthcoming Captains' meeting (April 3 or May 1) to qualify for your team's entry. If not, then just come to Messilah Beach Hotel on Friday May 11, 1990 and watch how every one is having fun.

For inquiries you may contact us on 5624111 ext 711, 712, 739.

CINEMA

Al Andulus
Street Justice

Al Salmiyah
Malone

Al Hamra
Hell on the Battle Ground

Drive-in
Arabic film

Al Firdous
Nigahen

Fahadhel Open
Jyoti Ba... Jawa

Fahadhel
Arabic film

Al Jabra
Red Scorpion

Granada
Arabic film

Salaikhat
Raiders of Paradise

Jeeb
Feds

Ahmad Drive-in
Arabic film

PRAYERS

Izzak	4.04
Fajr	4.14
Zuhr	11.51
Asr	3.23
Maghreb	6.09
Isha	7.26

INDIAN VIDEO ROUNDUP

Nutty, eccentric, bizarre

By Fathima Ahmed

Arab Times staff

"I've come to claim my wife," says Deepak to mother-in-law Rohini Hattangady. "What rubbish! You are not Jyoti's husband," she replies. Apparently, Deepak-Jyoti were married in childhood! And the mother-in-law is lying about Jyoti's marriage because Deepak belongs to the poor class — the divide between the rich and the poor in director Harnesh Malhotra's *Amin Gharibi*.

Rishi Kapoor and Neelam play Jyoti-Deepak. Why is Malhotra propagating the idea of child marriage in the 21st century? Isn't child marriage outlawed? At least that's what we thought, until this film came along.

The child marriage syndrome is a mere sub-plot in the movie, that actually deals with the spoils wife and children of an industrialist. To save his inheritance son Raj Babbar agrees to marry a girl of his father's choice. While Poonam Dhillon languishes in her palatial home, Babbar visits the "kuthewali" (Sona (dancing girl) played by Rekha. Sona has her heart set on the local hoodlum Heera (Jeetendra). By a contrived coincidence, Poonam happens to be Jeetendra's sister.

The patchwork quilt takes shape in the village, in the city and in the slums — finally ending in redemption in the fields of, maybe, Rajasthan. Values are skin deep; situations superficial and the characters theatrical; mixed with a dash of song, dance, melodrama and rhetoric we have Amiri Gharibi, a futile exercise.

Atishbaz

Writer K.K. Shukla's story opens in Lahore

prison. I don't know why the prison is in Lahore. Shukla tells us that this is because it is pre-independent India — and the country will be divided. And Sheri, along with his entire family, lands in Bombay. The big divide in *Aishbaz* is between sanity and insanity. Nutty, eccentric characters and bizarre situations leave behind a blazing trail of dead bodies.

Imagine this situation: a dozen armed men carrying machine-guns firing away at one, defenceless man, who walks away with only a scrape on his shoulder. Such super-human traits abound in Sheri's character, tailor-made for Shogun, oh, sorry Shatrughan Sinha. His bloodshot eyes and his stagey, exaggerated performance as the hardened criminal increases the trauma of *Aishbaz*. To add fuel to fire, the undying friendship of Sheri and "Jaani" Vijay (Aditya Pancholi) makes you sic! Vijay, after three-fourths of the film decides to reform. It seems that filmmakers have hit upon the idea of reforming criminals — recruit them as police officers.

Police officer Vijay is attacked by Sheri's enemy, Tiger. (Kiran Kumar) suffering several bullet wounds. Incredibly, in the next frame, Vijay is up and about — fighting off an attack on Sheri, who heroically lays down his life to save "Jaani," not that it mattered.

The romantic interest comes in the form of Anita Raj, who changes from an innocent lass to a gangster's moll — all due to the trauma of partition, only to be reclaimed as property of Sheri.

Forget *Aishbaz*. It's nothing but trouble. The above movies are by courtesy of Athari Video, Main St. Farwaniya, Tel: 4712900 and Canary Video, Fisheries Bldg, Sharq.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Bills 'n' Pieces

An interesting 5 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel. 5634663.

SOCIAL

Hyderabad

The Committee for Celebrations of 400-year Anniversary of Hyderabad (DECCEN) invites essays in either Urdu, Telugu or English languages in not less than 1000 words on one of the following topics: 1. Quli Qutub Shah — the Architect of Hyderabad; 2. Contribution of Nawab Mir Osman Ali Khan towards modern Hyderabad; 3. Hyderabad City as I saw her (for school students only).

The competition is open to all present and former Hyderabadis and their children residing in Kuwait.

A panel of judges will judge the first, second and third prize winning entries, and the prizes and citations will be distributed before the audience at 400-year anniversary celebrations to be held sometime in May 1990.

All entries must be neatly written or typed on A4 size paper in double space, and reach the committee on or before April 30, 1990 and addressed to the Convenor Literary Committee, PO Box 23343, Safat, 13094, Kuwait. No entry fee is charged.

Ladies International League

L.I.L's Summer Bazaar is now being held at the Kuwait Regency Palace Hotel in the exhibition hall on Friday, May 11 from 10 am to 6 pm. All inquiries contact Ceilia on 5325131 or Barbara on 5325131.

PAC's Silver Jubilee

THE organising committee of the Pakistan Arts Circle will celebrate PAC's Silver Jubilee on Thursday, the 27th April, 1990 at 9 pm. The programme will include variety of programme and "Sham-e-Ghazal." Our earlier artist will present his wonderful performance, and is being invited from Pakistan.

Reservations are open to all families. All are kindly requested to book their seats well before 15th April, 1990. For more information contact 4716258.

Summer Affair '90

THE Weekend Club will host their traditional "Summer Affair" on the first day of Eid Al Fitr (April 26) at the Regency Palace Hotel. Watch or participate in the selection and crowning of the 1990 Summer Queen, join in a Live Contest, watch a scintillating display of "Lambada" or simply let your feet loose to the music of Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers. Gala buffet, loads of prizes and most important have a good time. For reservations call 4315425 (Julio), 5741380 or 4890566.

Saligaocars

CALLING all Saligaocars... to respond to the call for a social gathering on May 25 at Ramada Al Salam, at 11.30 am. For details contact the following: Justin Fernandes on Tel. No. 2406936 (Res), Aloa Carvalho, 2411442 Res, 246121, Americo Remedios, Res. 3983348 and Paul D'Cruz, Res. 2444729, Tony Cordeiro off, 2415401, Res. 2412337.

Quran Khawani

A meeting was held at the residence of Nazir Dogar under the Chairmanship of Dr Riaz Ahmed Mahesar, president Pakistan People's Club, regarding the observance of 11 death anniversary of former prime minister and chairman Zulfikar Ali Bhutto on April 4. The meeting was attended by all central executive committee members. It was decided to hold Quran Khawani at the residence of Haji Qamar at 4 pm on April 4 1990. All members are invited.

Rose Ferns drama

MAY 10-11: Expatriates Club proudly announces that Goa's celebrated klog of century shows Rose Ferns, and his sixteen member troupe, will present at the Granada Cinema hall, Kheitan, his premier release in Kuwait "Xinx" (Broken Glass) and "Beiman Tum" (You Ungrateful) which has already crossed the hundred plus mark in Goa. More details later.

Holy Week 1990

Holy Family Cathedral — Kuwait

Palm and Passion Sunday: 8th April — 7.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 3.25 pm, Holy Mass (Konkani); 4.30 pm, Holy Mass (Konkani); 5.45 pm, Holy Mass (English); 7.55 pm, Holy Mass (English).

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday of the Holy Week: 9th, 10th, 11th April — 7.15 am, Holy Mass (English); 6.00 pm to 8.30 pm, Confession; 6.30 pm, Holy Mass (English); 7.00 pm, Holy Mass & Retreat (Malayalam — in big hall).

Maundy Thursday: 12th April — 7.00 am, Concelebrated Mass of Christ (English); 4.00 pm, Holy Mass (Konkani); 5.30 pm, Solemn Holy Mass of the Lord's Supper (English); 9.00 pm, Adoration (English — in big hall).

Good Friday: 13th April (Day of fast and abstinence) — 7.00 am, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Malayalam); 9.00 am, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English); 2.30 pm, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Konkani); 4.00 pm, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English); 5.30 pm, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English).

Holy Saturday: 14th April — 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm Confessions; 8.00 pm, Easter Vigil Mass (English).

Easter Sunday: 15th April — 7.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 9.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 10.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 11.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 11.30 am, Holy Mass (French in big hall); 12.00 noon Holy Mass (English); 4.00 pm, Holy Mass (Konkani); 5.00 pm, Holy Mass (English); 6.00 pm, Holy Mass (English); 7.00 pm, Holy Mass (Malayalam in big hall).

Indian Cuisine Centre

Indian art of fancied lac bangles and beautiful henna work comes live at the finest Indian cuisine centre of Kuwait at the Maharaja Palace Restaurant.

Come savour the delicacies whilst giving your lady a gift to cherish. For more information contact 2406150

British Council

The British Council working hours during the Holy month of Ramadan: General office — Saturday to Wednesday — 7.30 to 14.00; Library — Saturday to Wednesday — 9.00 to 12.30, 16.00 to 19.00; Thursday: 9.00 to 1.20.

Approb essay competition
ASSOCIATION of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen (Approb) is holding an essay competition on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Pakistan Resolution.

Pakistani students in the age group of between 12-14 (juniors) and 15-18 (seniors) are invited to write their essays on the topic "My role in building a better Pakistan." The essays between 1000 and 1500 words, in Urdu or English, should be sent by 15th of April.

Four prizes of KD100 each (2 each for Urdu and English) will be awarded to the best articles in each group with other consolation prizes for deserving participants.

The panel of judges is headed by Dr M.I. Saleem, Dr Ali Jafrey and Abdus Sattar Ghazali. For further details, contact: Tel. Approb, 2425315. Fax. 5323751.

Daniella Dhow Trip

Daniella invites all Danes to go on a dhow trip on Friday, May 4. For registration please call Jytte on Tel: 2449610 before April 22.

Narmada's Malayalam play

NARMADA Theatres will be staging a social Malayalam play, A Love Mantra From Ujjain, at Indian Arts Circle auditorium. Funaites on Friday, May 11, 1990 at 6.30 pm. Written by Varghese Paul, lyrics by Rajendra Bahu, music by Antony Joseph, the play is co-directed by Sherry John and directed by Jayan Pattathu. Various characters are being represented by popular stage artists among the Malayalee community in Kuwait.

Guardian Angel Club

The Guardian Angel Club take great pleasure in announcing their Konkani drama entitled "Ostorocho Mog" (Woman's Love) directed by Rennie J. Colaco, on June 8, 1990, at the IAC, Goan Charlie Chaplin — Jancito Vaz, Ophelia, H. Britto and Sebbu Coutinho are among the other well known Goan cast.

Canadian Women's League

An invitation is extended to all Canadian women to attend this month's meeting which will be held on Saturday April 7 from 4 to 6 pm in Qurtoba. For more information contact 2563025 or 2653067.

Sindhu Devi

PADMASREE Dr. K.J. Yesudas and leading famous play back singer Miss Sindhu Devi is coming to Kuwait to perform two days musical concert on April 24th and 25th 1990 in Granada Theatre, Kheitan.

Approb Eid Milan Party

Association of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen is organising its traditional Eid Milan Party at the SAS Hotel Ballroom, on the second of Eid Al Fitr.

The Gala Party programme will include dinner, music, songs, comedy and a colourful display of Pakistani national costumes.

There will be special entertainment and games for children under the age of ten. A lucky draw with attractive prizes and American auction will also be held for the benefit of needy students of Pakistani schools in Kuwait.

For further details and reservations please contact 5317390, 5386201, 5316273, 2425315, 5631815, 5613934, 1522647.

Passion Week

The English Language congregation of National Evangelical Church will hold the following worship services.

8th April — Palm Sunday — Worship from 6 pm to 7.30 pm.
11th April — Wednesday — The choir will present Easter Cantata from 5.30 pm to 7.00 pm.

12th April — Maundy Thursday — Communion worship service from 7.00 pm to 8.30 pm.

13th April — Good Friday Service from 11.45 am to 3.00 pm

15th April — Easter Sunrise Service from 4.30 am to 6.00 am.

Easter Communion Service from 7 am to 8.30 am.

Easter Sunday worship service from 6.00 pm to 7.30 pm.

During choir will present "Easter Cantata". All are welcome.

Kuwait Players

The Kuwait Players will be performing "On Pink Paper In Black and White" on Wednesday and Thursday April 18 and 19 respectively. The play comprises of 3 one act plays and

starts at 8.00 pm at the Universal American School. For tickets and more information contact 5629875 or 5640981.

Kuwait Little Theatre

Kuwait Little Theatre are presenting a St. George's Day Revue on Thursday 19 April in the Unity Centre, Ahmadi, beginning at 7.30 pm (Please note the change of date to that previously advertised). Acts include Phil Thomas, June Woolston, The Kuwait Folk Group, and the Kuwait Singers. Tickets and tables can be booked by telephoning 3919759.

HOTELS

Mughal Mahal

FIRST Indian restaurant to introduce Mughlai cuisine in Kuwait. Enjoy our specialties such as: Khandari Tikka, Mal Mali Kebab, Navratan Biryani and lots more. Ramadan timings. Carryaway pickup's from 5 pm onwards. Dine in from 6 pm to 2 am. Tele. 2425131/2.

Sheraton Hotel

HUNT ROOM: Opens for Ifar with a buffet of exquisite delicacies. RICARDO: Will be opened for dinner with live entertainment by the new duo — Franco & Regina. COFFEE SHOP: Will serve an Ifar buffet and regular dinner with special menu items such as grilled items, maza, etc. Enjoy Sohour from 12 pm to 3 am. LOBBY: Lady pianist Margorata Lebbay plays in the lobby diwanis after Ifar until the end of Ramadan.

Ramadan at Messilah Beach Hotel

AL MUBARAKIAH: Daily Ramadan Ifar Buffet, with a selection of fresh dishes, Kuwaiti and Middle Eastern specialties.

Ghahga & Sohnnur: Enjoy the daily fresh desserts and juices with the delightful sohour buffet accompanied by soft Middle Eastern background music on the oud.

SPORTS

FILCHECK black and white nite

The Filipino Chess Club in Kuwait (FILCHECK) will hold its "Black and White Nite" on Thursday, 12 April 1990 at 7.00 pm at the new Kabayan Restaurant.

As the name implies, all guests and participants are to come in black and white attire to celebrate the club's Triple Firsts Affair featuring 1) the induction of its first elected Board of Directors and Officers, 2) Awarding ceremony of the First Rated Chess Tournament and 3) last but not the least, the first party ever organised by the club.

Invitation for all members are now available at the club's headquarters. For details please contact Edward or Sammy 2402405.

Yoga lessons

FOR FITNESS and slimming, Kuwait International Hotel offers Yoga lessons for ladies and men, every Sunday and Tuesday at 8.00 to 9.00 pm and on Friday from 10.30 to 11.30 am. For more information contact Antonio Kingma on 2533000 or Tanya on 5626529.

Dinghy Laser Sailing

M.B.L.C. announces its Ramadan "Madhatter" racing series commencing Friday 30.3.90 and running every Tuesday and Friday until 17.4.90. Briefing times, Fridays 10.00 am, Tuesday 15.00. All

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

- 1.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
- 1.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
- 1.30 World animals: Cultural programme
- 2.00 Kabool adventures: Cartoon series
- 2.30 Maa Al Sabreen: Historical serial (Part 9)
- 3.10 Human health: Cultural programme (Part 9)
- 3.35 Qahadhy Bahlool: Arabic serial (Part 9)
- 4.20 Rassel Al Ekha: Local programme
- 4.40 Rafat Al Hajan: Arabic serial (Part 9)
- 5.30 Hadeeth Deeni: Religious programme, presented by Sheikh Metwalli Al Sharawi
- 6.20 Baada Al Ifar: Religious feature
- 6.45 Mazenger Journey: Cartoon serial (Part 9)
- 7.00 Madaenat Al Ajayeb: Local children serial (Part 9)
- 7.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
- 8.00 Maa Al Talab: Local programme, prepared by the Ministry of Education School Activities Department
- 9.00 Johayna: Cultural programme (Part 9)
- 9.45 Sawalef Min Al Madhi: Local programme
- 10.00 News in Arabic
- 10.45 The family: Local serial (Part 9)
- 11.30 3 X 3: Local variety programme (Part 9)
- 12.15 Share Al Mawardi: Arabic serial (Part 9)
- 1.15 Sabah Al Kher Ya Jan: Arabic serial (Part 2), starring Sana Jameel.

Omar Al Hareeri, Mohammed Redham, Khayriya Ahmad

- 3.15 News Summary
- 3.20 The World Today via Satellite
- 3.35 Holy Quran and Closedown

KTV 2

- 8.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
- 8.10 Mickey and Donald, A cartoon series for children
- 8.30 Animals of Africa "Suricates". It looks like weasels or castors... it lives in groups and digs its hiding hole near stems of trees.
- 9.00 News in English
- 9.30 Welcome Ramadan. A religious programme on the occasion of Holy Ramadan
- 9.45 Science Edition. The Canadian space programme for training aeronauts and launching spacecrafts to outer space... Importance of grass for play grounds. Artificial grass industry... Burns from sun-bathing... Skin cancer...
- 10.15 Bonker, "The Pump". Three criminals attack a police-woman. Booker's girl-friend.
- 11.30 Cine Club. Presented by: Farouk Abdulaziz. Murder by Death. Starring: Peter Falk, Alec Guinness, Peter Sellers. Several detectives are invited to stay at the home of a wealthy recluse... murder follows...
- 1.30 News in brief
- 1.45 Magazine D'Actualite

Kala honours cultural figures

THE Kerala Art Lovers Association, "Kala", held a commemorative tribute to the late Prof. Thayattu Sankaran, a prominent and progressive Kerala literary and cultural figure during the occasion of his fifth death anniversary recently.

The meeting was presided over by V.B. Jamal, the president of "Kala" and it began with a welcome speech made by Sam Pynummoody, the literary secretary. Vakkom Sharma, Renuka Bhaskaran, Pushpa Narayanan and P.M. Sudhakaran made speeches by reviewing the literary and cultural creations of the well known critic and writer Prof. Thayattu.

A recitation of poems done by N.V.K. Warrick, Dr. Nanthakumar Moorkkath, Varkey Mathew Eraviperoor, Sainu Pallinathathu, L. Chandran Pillai, Badal Malabary and Mohan Vadanappally.

The high light of the

programme which made the audience spell-bound was a kathaprasanga (story discourse) by Kumari Pankulam. To enliven the evening J. Radhakrishnan, George Issac, and K. Muhammed help much by singing their favourite songs which received a great applause from the audience. The kathaprasanga was conducted in connection with the 13th death anniversary of A.K. Gopalan.

An orchestra team viz. K. Narayanan — violin, Simon V. Kothamangalam — organ, Kamalasan — Thahla, Lorence and K. Muhammed — effects — controlled the music.

Kala has by far established itself as an apolo the realm of artistic and cultural activities in Kuwait. Now to crown all of its past achievements Kala has earned another feather to its fair cap. Rajan Kilmanoor, the art secretary addressed the art lovers and T.K. Narayanan, the general secretary paid a vote of thanks.

For you Fantastic Quality, Fantastic Design

a 10 piece gift - set of TEFAL iron - stick cookware for easy cooking, easy cleaning and long lasting.

a large range of TEFAL non - stick Pasty Moulds with the famous T-Plus coating which makes your sweets come out always in one piece.

a TEFAL Oven - Grill that takes 5 minutes to reach 200°C when you can bake and warm the food inside while you grill on top.

a new generation of TEFAL non - stick cookware "ULTRABASE" that lasts longer and gives you the best cooking results.

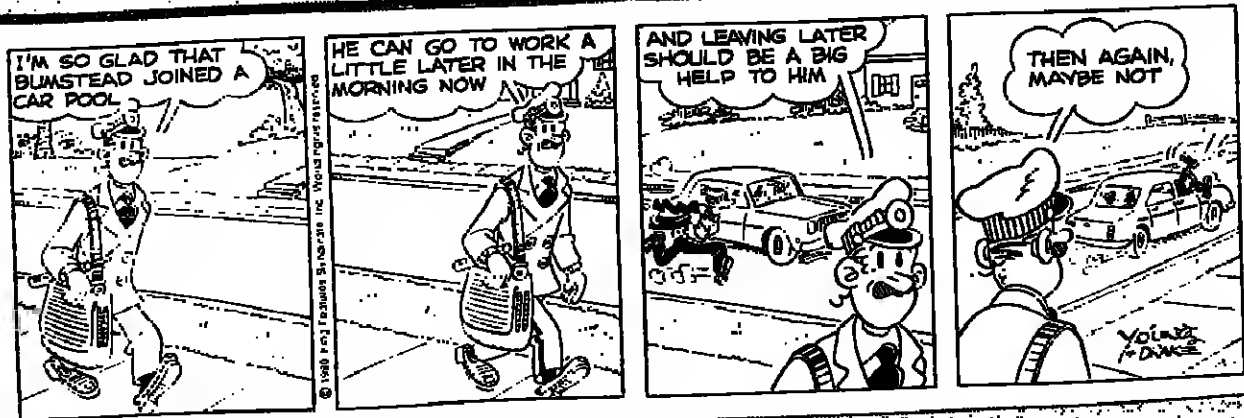
a TEFAL Fryer - Kettle... easy to handle, boils water in no time and can be removed from the base with an easy touch.

MADE IN FRANCE **TEFAL** تيفال
Fantastic

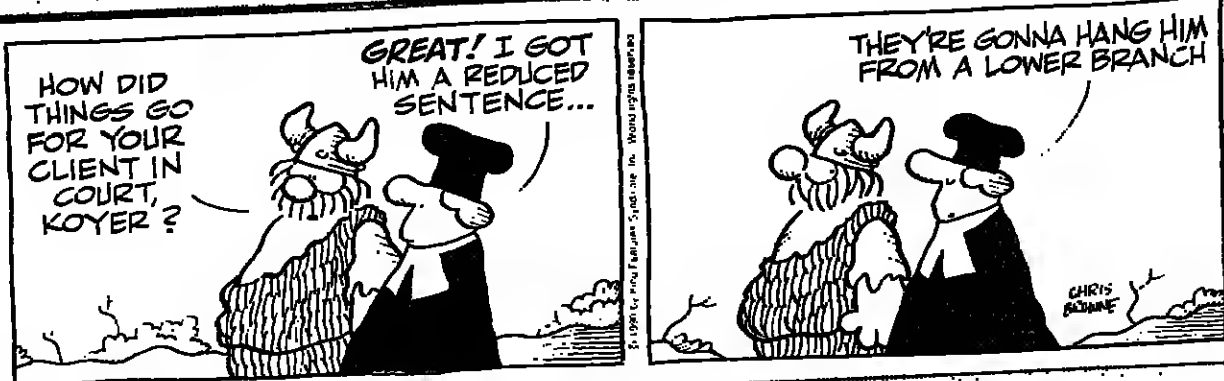
Sole Agents: Ali Abdulla Al-Sanea Trading Est. Tel. 244723/2431126.

LEISURE

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



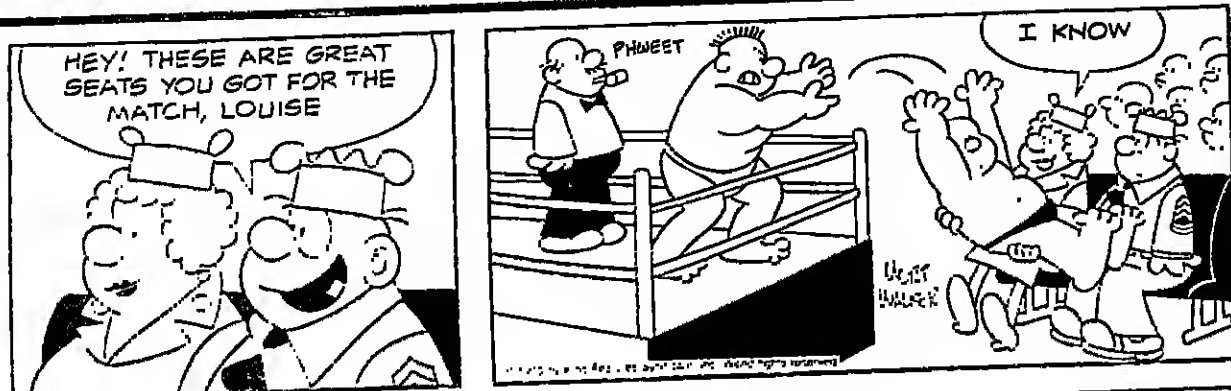
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dik Browne



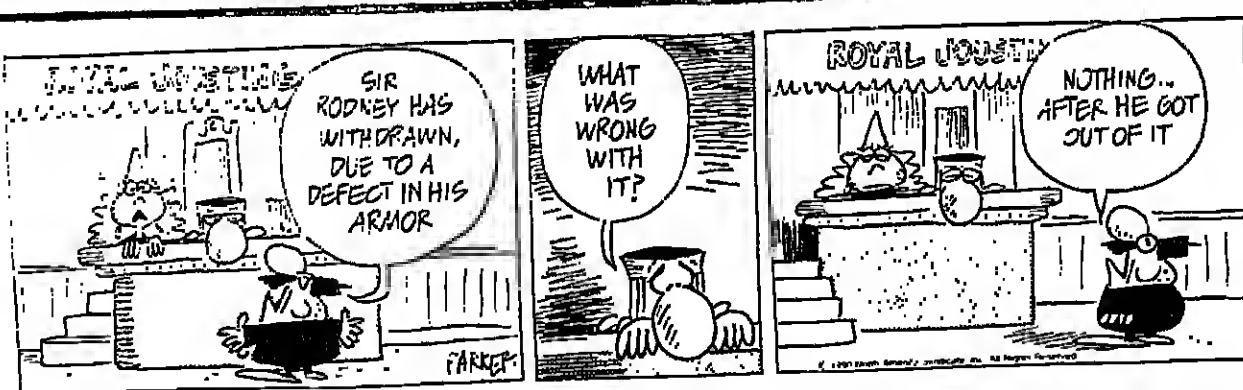
AGATHA CRUMM — By Bill Hoest



BEETLE BAILEY — By Mort Walker



THE WIZARD OF ID — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



ANDY CAPP



B.C. — By Johnny Hart

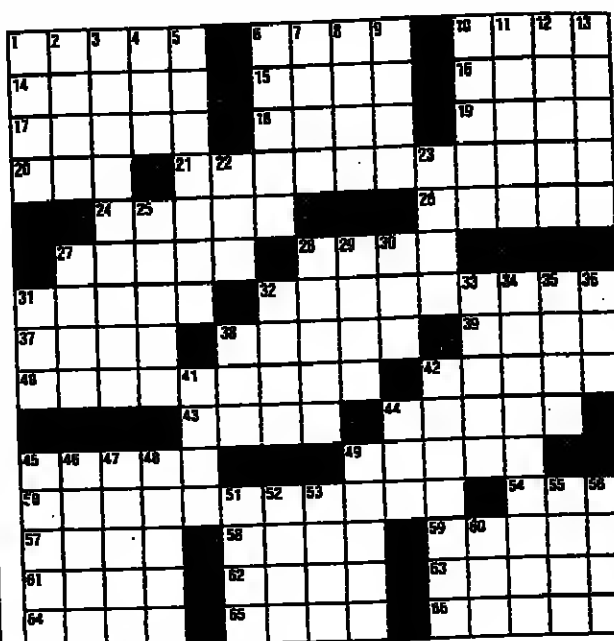
ANIMAL MAGNETISM

LIKE POLECATS REPEL
UNLIKE POLECATS ATTRACT

HE-MAN — By G. Forton & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Candle
6 Scoop out
10 Pepper follower
14 Mountain ridge
15 Make eyes at
16 Hebrew month
17 Jewel weight
18 Border on a shield
19 Jerry of the S.F.
20 R.N.'s forte
21 Diplomats
24 Eastwood's "Dirty"
26 Ceremonial procedures
27 Dispatches
28 Summon
31 Feathered friends
32 Very small
37 Cosmetic ingredient
38 Loot
39 Draft status
40 Enormous
42 Map feature
43 Skull crew
44 Ire
45 Arabian chief
49 Binary star in Perseus
50 Pamper
54 Taradiddle
57 Hipbones
58 Viva voce
59 Gets —
61 Shipshape
62 Created
63 She-bears: Lat.
64 Being
65 Aroma
66 Heavens

DOWN

1 Needed by
21 Across
2 Soviet inland sea
3 Draft horse
4 O'Hare info.
5 Slows
6 Hatch or trap
7 Taj Mahal site
8 Evils
9 Light-Horse
10 — Gras
11 Dostoyevsky's "The —"
12 Abalone feature
13 Lock of hair
22 "— Miniver"
23 War god
25 South American mountains
27 Storage bin
28 Devout
29 Picnic pests
30 Chap
31 Resounding sound
32 Secure
33 Zaire river
34 Altruistic
35 Sly look
36 Have
38 Bikini part
41 British Conservative
42 Starlet
44 Every
45 Chemical compound
46 Some spies
47 Inventor Howe
48 Fill with joy
49 Austrian psychiatrist
51 Lake or singer
52 Toward the mouth
53 Pedestal part
55 Dies —
56 Birch or root
60 Scrap for fido

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:
LIEUT. A.D.O.U.P. PILIAT
ACHIE. O.D.U.S. ELLIE
SHOR. I.O.R.D. ALIAN
HOB. I.O.R. E.S. S.A.I.S.T.
T.R.E.S. EWIE
AL. OF. I.T. PET. ARGUE
SAB. I. SEN. I.O. ANI
CH. I. K. I. E. N. S. A. N. D. W. I. C. H.
O. I. O. E. N. O. U. R. E. ALLE
T. I. N. G. I. E. S. E. A. F. R. I. E. R.
A. P. E. S. H. A. W.
E. N. I. L. I. S. T. E. E. O. R. A. N. G. E.
G. O. O. N. H. A. M. B. U. R. G. I. E. R.
A. N. N. I. E. I. R. M. A. S. O. M. I. T.
O. I. E. R. C. L. A. R. I. E. N. O. I. T. E.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

FROM VIENNA, GOOD TECHNIQUE

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ Q 3 2
♥ A 10
♦ A J 9 7 4
♣ A 9 6

WEST

♠ 9 6 4
♥ K 9 5 4 2
♦ 10
♣ Q 8 7 2

EAST

♠ 10 8 5
♥ J 7 6 3
♦ Q 6 3 2
♣ J 10

SOUTH

♠ A K J 7
♥ Q 8
♦ K 8 5
♣ K 5 4 3

The bidding:

South West North East
1 NT Pass 3 ♣ Pass
3 ♦ Pass 4 NT Pass
6 ♦ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Nine of ♣

Dear Tannah:

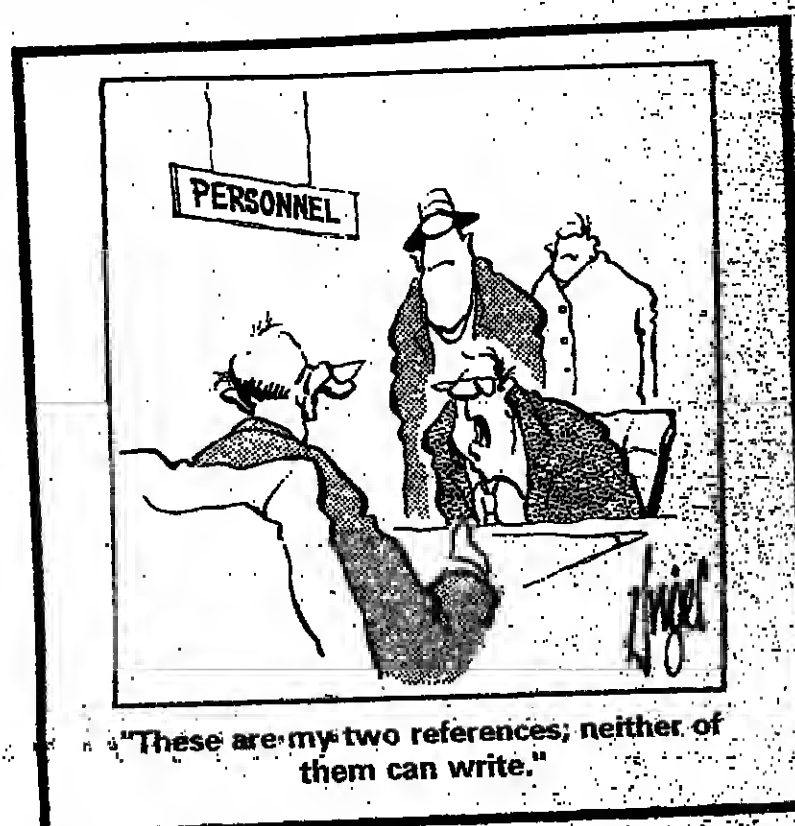
I have for years held Christian Mari in great esteem, both as a player and as a person. He played this hand in the France-Sweden match at the recent World Team Championships.

North's jump to three clubs was a transfer to three diamonds and four no trump was a natural invitation to slam. South judged his prime controls and ruffing value justified acceptance of the try and he chose to play in the suit in case a heart ruff

was needed. Mari won the spade lead in hand and was dismayed at the duplication in hearts. Since 12 tricks were there if the trump suit could be brought in without loss, declarer cashed the king and learned the bad news when West showed out on the second diamond. Dummy's jack was played and East shifted to the jack of clubs after taking the queen of diamonds. To preserve dummy's entry, declarer won in hand. Two more rounds of trumps extracted the enemy's fangs and declarer paused to review the situation.

To make the rest of the tricks he needed to find one of the defenders with at least four clubs and the king of hearts. If it were West, declarer could simply cash the last diamond and three spades, and discard from dummy whichever suit West retained.

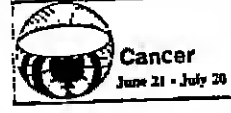
But if East held the key cards, dummy would have to discard first. For the squeeze to operate on either defender, declarer cashed the ace of hearts—a Vienna Coup. Now when the winners were cashed dummy could come down to two clubs and whoever initially held four clubs and the king of hearts would have to concede. Voila!

As ever,
Omar

YOUR STARS



Aries
March 21 - April 20
There is no time to lose and you should concentrate on dealing with essentials. You should however, not be in such a hurry that you miss important details. Show a little more consideration. Be sincere.



Cancer
June 21 - July 20
Give others the benefit of any doubt. You will tend to indulge in daydreams and should try to restrain yourself. You would be wrong to say one thing and then do something quite inconsistent with it. Be tolerant.



Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22
Allow others to express their opinions and take them into your account in your thinking. Now is a good time to take the initiative. An inclination to be extravagant will have to be curbed. Be realistic.



Capricorn
Dec. 21 - Jan. 19
You will be able to make good progress in a personal matter. You will be able to draw the right conclusions only if you allow others to tell you what they think. Take a little more interest in your children. Be sensible.



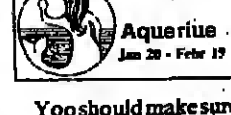
Taurus
April 21 - May 20
You have no good reason to lose faith in yourself. However, there is no good reason for an excess of confidence either. You should keep your eyes and ears open. Be reliable.



Leo
July 21 - Aug. 21
Make sure that your partner and children are not left out of account in your financial calculations. You are more liable to make mistakes and should make a special effort to avoid doing so. Once you have made up your mind stick to it. Be generous.



Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 22
Make allowances for your own shortcomings but do not allow yourself to be daunted by the magnitude of the task ahead of you. Keep an open mind towards change, but please, no change just for its own sake. Take plenty of rest and sufficient exercise, too.



Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 19
You should make sure your partner does not feel neglected or unloved. Your lucky numbers are 14 and 27. Not everything is quite as you would wish it to be. Avoid taking too many things for granted. Be pertinent.



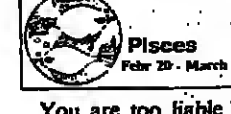
Gemini
May 21 - June 20
Do not expect to have everything your own way. You should not just hope for the best, if you do the worst could happen. Make sure you do not eat too many sweet things and drink only moderately. Be cordial.



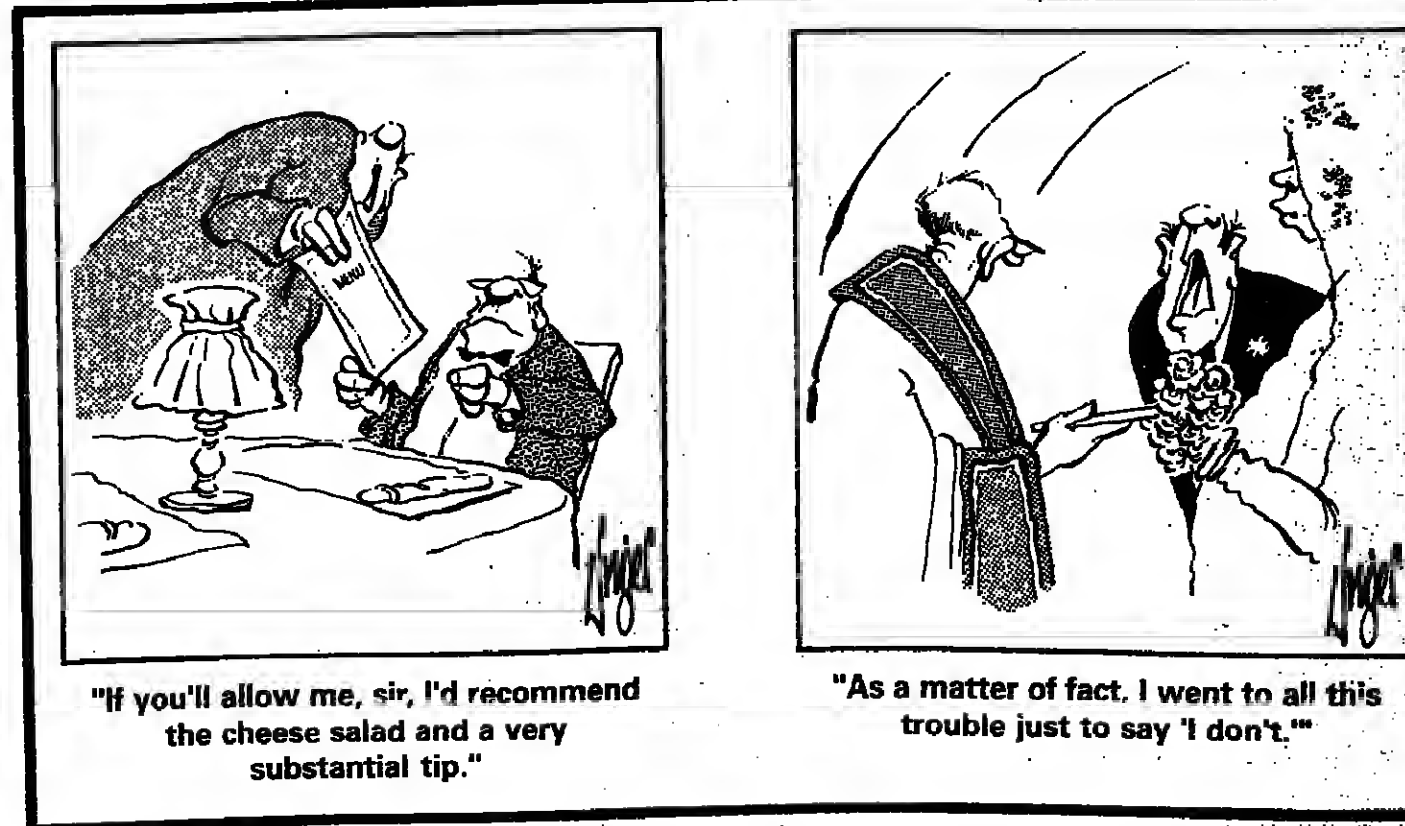
Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22
You should keep your eyes wide open. Also listen more closely to what others are saying. Use all the commonsense you can summon and show a little more goodwill as well as making allowances. Be fair.



Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 20
You will be able to do what needs to be done only if you make an extra effort. Not everything is as it seems to be so do look beneath the surface. Make sure you do not spend more than you can readily afford. Be attentive.



Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You are too liable to jump to conclusions and they are likely to be wrong. Something you did not have high hopes about will turn out much better than expected. Take a little more care about your appearance and personal hygiene. Be practical.



"As a matter of fact, I went to all this trouble just to say 'I don't.'"

Crime

Poverty, racism drive immigrants to crime

Swedes lose patience with foreigners

STOCKHOLM. (Reuters): Poverty and racial prejudice in Sweden may be pushing immigrants towards crime.

For some who arrive on Swedish shores, the hope of joining a wealthy, liberal society fades into a feeling of rejection.

Authorities say this sense of alienation, coupled with poorer living conditions and higher unemployment, could be why the newcomers commit twice as many crimes per head as native Swedes.

Immigrants make up only five per cent of Sweden's 8.47 million population, but account for 10 per cent of crime, according to official figures. Foreigners waiting for residence permits and visitors from abroad are responsible for another five per cent.

Analysis of the crime figures has sparked a sometimes strident debate over the influx of refugees seeking asylum and eventual residence, many of them from the

Middle East.

Jerzy Sarnecki, a criminologist at the Swedish Crime Prevention Council, said the figures published by Statistics Sweden, the official statistics bureau, were broadly in line with his own observations.

"Against the background of findings in the United States and Australia, I think the cause may lie in the relationship between foreigners and Swedes," Sarnecki told Reuters.

"The existence of racism and prejudice against certain groups prevents them feeling any solidarity with the society. I think we need stronger legislation against racism," he added.

Sweden's ombudsman for discrimination, Peter Nobel, said immigrants were no more prone to criminality than anybody else, but their socio-economic condition was significant.

"Racism can play a role, as can living conditions and psychological problems arising from harassment and persecution," he told the Svenska Dagbladet newspaper.

At a recent, televised public meeting in Kimstad, a village of 2,000 in southeastern Sweden, one resident explained why he opposed plans to house 200 refugees there.

"The mild winters are probably caused by the dark-skinned immigrants who are used to a warmer climate," he said.

Residents of Kimstad distanced themselves from this remark, but newspapers and television gleefully seized on it.

The village is sharply divided over immigration, with many inhabitants saying the proposed refugee settlement would be too big to absorb. Racist slogans and signs demanding to "keep Sweden Swedish" have appeared on walls.

Swedish media have compared Kimstad to the small southern town of Sjöbo which voted in a local 1988 referendum against accepting any immigrants at all.

"Those who want to come here should have a house and job first," Kimstad resident Jan Tallf was quoted by the daily Dagens Nyheter as saying.

"We Swedes are a laughing stock abroad. It's too easy to come here and live off welfare," he said.

An Iraqi man who beat his Swedish wife was imprisoned in February by an appeal court, which overruled an earlier more lenient judgement based on consideration for the defendant's cultural background.

In another case, women's groups criticised a male judge who warned Swedish girls to make allowances for immigrants' views on sex and marriage.



Guns 'n' Roses: Izzy, Duff, Rose, Axl, Slash and Steven

On top — but for how long?

By Mohammed Elsheikh

SINCE late 1987, Guns 'n' Roses have been storming up both the US and the UK charts with singles like Sweet Child O' Mine, Welcome to the Jungle, Paradise City, Nightrain and Patience and they have also reached the top of the album charts with their two albums Appetite for Destruction and G'N'R Lies to become one of the world's number one rock bands. But just who are Guns 'n' Roses?

Guns 'n' Roses got together in 1985 in Los Angeles. They formed after leaving their former bands: L.A. Guns and Road Crew. Axl and Izzy were friends ever since they were in school as well as being members of the former, while Slash, Steve and Duff were members of Road Crew.

Their first live experience together was in 1985. The Hell Tour '85. While they were on their way to their first date in Seattle, their car broke down so they had to hitch-hike; it took two and a half days! "We were all standing at the side of the road dressed in our stage clothes," said Duff. "Five guys in striped tight pants and boots out in the middle of Oregon. When we finally got there we were wasted. It was our first gig and we sucked real bad — it was hilarious..."

They finally got their first record deal with a top "hard rock" label Geffen Records in late 1986, they invented a rehearsal studio from a garage and suitably called it "The Hell House". It had no bathroom, shower or kitchen and they stole pieces of lumber from a nearby building site to make a loft that allowed three to sleep at a time. Izzy used to sleep in a tiny space between the couch and the wall and he would sometimes stay there for days!

In the summer of 1988 they played at The Donington Rock Festival where Axl greeted the crowd by saying "Have a good day and don't kill yourself."

Unfortunately, two members of the crowd were crushed to death whilst slumming during Guns 'n' Roses performance, and ever since, the annual festival has been cancelled.

So that is the story of Guns 'n' Roses but who are the members of this great rock group?

W. Axl Rose, singer, 26.

Born in Lafayette, Indiana, Axl's real name is Bill Bailey — Bailey being his stepfather's surname who was a bit of a no-gooder. His real father's name was Rose so he changed it to that at the age of 17. The name "Axl" comes from a group he was in. "W"

stands for William.

Axl suffers from a mental disorder called "manic" depressive schizophrenia which means he is prone to "violent mood swings" and has to take a spook drug called Lithium frequently to keep him balanced.

He was an intelligent child at school who always got "A's". He has been thrown in jail over twenty times but claims guilty only five times — of "public consumption". A psychiatrist who saw him when he was in jail once, for three months, said he has an "exceptionally high I.Q. and his behaviour is evident of psychosis."

Slash, lead guitarist, 23.

Slash, really named Saul Hudson, was born in Stoke-on-Trent. His father was an album sleeves designer and his mother a clothes designer. Sadly, his parents split up when he was very young, and as a result, he lived with his father in his grandparents' house in England until he was 11.

In 1976, they emigrated to southern California where he experienced a lot of bad times. "I had total freedom all the time. I used not to come home for weeks..."

When he was in high school, he made friends with Steve who encouraged him to buy his first guitar — a plank with one string on it which he picked up in a garage sale. When asked why he chose to play the guitar and not bass, he said "I decided the guitar was more interesting because it had more strings on it."

Weird you may call him. Slash has three pet snakes: Pandora — an eight foot python, another python and a boa constrictor.

Steve Adler, drummer, 24.

Steve, who lives with his girlfriend Cheryl and his pug dog Benson, is often referred to as the boring one in Guns 'n' Roses. He was thrown out of eight different schools before high school because of "unruly behaviour". Steve began to bang on pots and pans before he took drumming seriously. Although he does not drive, he likes motorcycles, hockey, partying and rock 'n' roll!

Izzy Stradlin, Lead guitarist, 26.

Izzy, whose real name is Jeff Labelle, was born in Indiana. His friendship with Axl goes way back when they were very young and remembers Axl as "a serious lunatic when I met him. He was just really bent on fighting and destroying things. Somebody's look at him wrong and he'd like just start a fight but then he could turn around and be the nicest."

Dismissal techniques

Never fire an employee on a Friday

LONDON. (UPI): "Never fire anyone on a Friday, and try not to be curt, obnoxious, hard-boiled or efficient or you could turn the 'unsuspecting corporate employee into a living corpse," a career expert says.

Derek Edwards, a career consultant who has helped relocate about 3,000 ousted executives, and who is the author of a study on Dismissal Techniques, said few managers have the skills required to break the bad news.

His report advises not to dismiss an employee on their birthday, on a personal anniversary, and most importantly, never on Friday.

"The sacking should not fall on a Friday because it saves the ex-employee from moping over the weekend, and it gives (the employee) more time to prepare for the family," he said.

"The pain of rejection, anger, humiliation, bitterness and grief can engulf their termination interview and make it a disturbing, uncomfortable, even dangerous experience for all concerned," Edwards said.

He believes few managers strike the right balance between being compassionate and professional.

"The terminator should get down to business immediately, stating the purpose of the meeting and the reasons which led up to it, and it is important to explain without trying to justify and to make it clear that the decision is irrevocable," he said.

Interviews should take no longer than 15 minutes and be away from busy office areas.

"Be brief and allow time for the respond while keeping con-

trol of the interview," said Edwards. "All of this does not imply being hardboiled, curt, insensitive, angry... or even obnoxiously efficient."

Edwards warned that failure to obey these guidelines can cause unnecessary trauma for the employee, and create a "ticking bomb" within the company if the managers delay informing the person.

"This can turn the unsuspecting corporate employee into a living corpse, shunned by colleagues, and becoming more and more anxious," he said. "Procrastination is the thief of time, but also of the individual's self confidence and future job prospects."

And Edwards said employers should not feel remorseful about the experience, which he believes has a brighter side.

Radiation monitor

A lightweight, pocket-sized radiation monitor for detecting alpha, beta and gamma radiation is now being marketed for use in schools and is available from Harwell Laboratory, near Oxford. Seen in use left, Radcount is simple to operate, with an end-window probe. It was developed as part of a programme funded by the UK Department of Energy to promote a greater understanding of ionising radiation by young people. The Radcount package for schools includes the counter and probe, detailed instructions for users and teachers, and a handbook of graded experiments for pupils at various levels up to university entrance.



Unsolved mystery

Most puzzling poisonous tale

By Carlton Steuart

IN turn-of-the-century New York it would have been hard to find an establishment more staid and respectable than the Knickerbocker Athletic Club, whose most distinguished star was the smiling, debonair Roland Molineux, committee member and reigning horizontal bar champion.

To many the personable Molineux was the perfect model of the ideal American hero. And that's what made it all the more shocking when, on November 14 1899, he stood in the dock of New York's Central Criminal Court, charged with murder by poisoning.

Had he deliberately administered cyanide to a Mrs Katherine J. Adams or had he really intended to slay her nephew Harry Cornish? Or both?

Cornish was none other than the Sports Director of the Knickerbocker. Furthermore, it was known that Molineux and Cornish did not get on.

The story constituted one of the most tantalisingly enigmatic homicides in American criminal history and was certainly one of the most puzzling poison cases ever.

At one point, Molineux was asked: "You claim to be entirely and absolutely innocent of any crime?"

The reply from the dock was laconic. Molineux said no reason for fear. In a firm, clear voice he replied: "Entirely and absolutely innocent."

But Assistant District Attorney James W. Osborne intended to prove otherwise. And it was certainly a highly bizarre story he had for the jury.

Harry Cornish had been a very puzzled man the previous Christmas Eve. His mail, received at the Knickerbocker, had included a personally-addressed cardboard box of the kind usually used by only the most exclusive jewelers.

Cornish had unwrapped the surrounding manila paper to reveal at one end a silver toothpick holder and, at the other, what appeared to be a small bottle of bromoseltzer, a mild form of medicine for headaches.

Who had sent so bizarre a present and, above all, why?

Impatiently, Cornish dismissed the riddle from his mind and prepared to throw away the manila wrapper.

But he kept it, thinking it might be possible to trace the person who had written his name and address on the wrapper.

Cornish endured the inevitable taunts from colleagues who said it was undoubtedly an anonymous gift from a girlfriend.

The same view was taken by Cornish's aunt, Mrs Adams, and her daughter, Mrs Rogers, with whom Cornish, a divorcee, lived on West 84th Street. Two days later, bored with the mystery, Cornish presented the bottle and toothpick holder to the aunt, shrugging: "You might as well have them. They are no good to me."

Mrs Adams accepted graciously and, at the first sign of a headache, decided to take a dose of the bromoseltzer. Her comment was, "My! How bitter it is."

Cornish agreed and downed what remained in the glass. The sequel was horrifying. Mrs Adams crumpled to the floor. A white-faced Cornish later testified: "She went down like face of a clown."

A hastily summoned doctor found the woman ashen-faced, her breathing heavy. Shortly afterwards she died — but not before the doctor had detected the distinctive odour of bitter almonds. An autopsy revealed death



Poison: Roland Molineux, who was charged with murder by poisoning.



Accused: The face of debonair Molineux

from cyanide poisoning.

As for Cornish, he had been more fortunate. A violent bout of vomiting almost certainly saved his life.

Scarcely surprisingly, the bottle was found to contain a lethal amount of cyanide. More significantly, perhaps, the bottle was not of the conventional type used for bromoseltzer. A label had been removed from a genuine bottle and carefully pasted on to the vessel whose contents killed Mrs Adams.

The police turned their attention to the Knickerbocker Club and soon learnt that there had been a dispute between Cornish and Molineux over the running of the club.

But it seemed a trivial motive for murder. Then the police turned up a jewellery store in Newark, New Jersey, where an assistant had sold a bottle to a man seeking a container for bromoseltzer intended for a lady's dressing table. A clerk in a drugstore also recalled selling a man two bottles of bromoseltzer and two small bottles of bromo-calcine.

The purchaser was revealed as red-haired and which caught the imagination, not just of the New York police, but of the press, who had also taken up the case.

A wig-maker near the drugstore recalled selling a red wig to a man around December 21. Identification from the press photograph was emphatic — the purchaser was Molineux.

A \$5,000 reward was offered by the New York Journal for information leading to the arrest of the killer.

Two New Yorkers in the business of renting out private mail boxes for clients came forward. One of the clients had given the name of H. Cornish, while the other claimed to be a man calling himself H.C. Barnei. Both the renters of the boxes stated that their client was Molineux.

The name of Cornish was intriguing enough but the police also learnt that there had actually been a member of the Knickerbocker named Henry C. Barnei who had received a powder also containing cyanide of Mercury through the post.

Barnei had died but the precise cause of death had never been definitely established.

In addition, poisons were found to have been bought from a firm in Cincinnati and they had been ordered and signed for by men calling themselves Mr Cornish and Mr Barnei.

Molineux was summoned to appear at the inquest on Mrs Adams. Vehemently, he denied renting private mailboxes. But the handwriting experts had a lot to say about the writing of Messrs. Cornish and Barnei. Both were the work of the same man.

The coroner's jury decided that Mrs Katherine Adams had met her death as a result of mercuric cyanide poisoning. It had been administered by Cornish who had received it through the mail from Molineux.

The coroner ordered Molineux's arrest and he was at first charged with the murder of Mrs Adams and of Barnei but, after legal wrangling, he stood in the dock to answer the sole charge of killing Mrs Adams.

A former mistress of the defendant revealed that he had a knowledge of chemistry and, furthermore, that she had seen in his possession writing paper remarkably similar to that used by 'Cornish' and 'Barnei'. Once again, the handwriting experts swore that the correspondence had been written by Molineux.

Then there was the evidence of the Knickerbocker Club secretary who gave details of a quarrel between Cornish and Molineux which had eventually led to Molineux's resignation.

But there were serious gaps in the prosecution's case. It proved impossible to discover who had bought the original silver holders. And one of the men who hired out mail-order boxes admitted under cross-examination that he had been paid \$350 by a newspaper in return for saying 'Mr Barnei' was none other than Molineux.

And there was the death of the Real H.C. Barnei, the cause of which had not definitely been established because he had been suffering from the after-effects of diphtheria.

The defence lawyer stated: "We believe that

the prosecution had failed to establish the charge made against this defendant and that no conviction can or should be made upon the evidence presented and we rest the case."

Nevertheless, the jury found Molineux guilty of murder in the first degree and he was removed to Sing Sing jail to await the hangman.

Molineux's lawyers were galvanised, eventually managing to get the verdict set aside on appeal.

In an entirely fresh trial, Molineux hit back. He denied ever sending the package to Cornish. Furthermore, a witness came forward to testify that he and Molineux had been together at the time the prosecution alleged the package had been sent.

Fresh sets of handwriting experts were summoned. Their only point of agreement was to disagree. Molineux, after two years under threat of the gallows, was acquitted.

Unanswered questions have haunted students of crime ever since...

Was the guilty man really Cornish? Was it true, as it was rumoured, that he had developed a passion for his niece, Mrs Rogers, and was prepared to kill his aunt who stood in his way? Had he swallowed the poison deliberately as a blind? Has Molineux and Cornish arranged all the crime between them?

And was there any significance in the fact that Molineux had eventually married an old flame of Barnei's?

After his acquittal, Molineux basked for a while in notoriety. He wrote books and Broadway play about his experiences. But the strain had proved too much and his nervous system cracked.

On November 2 1917, he died in the Kings Park State Hospital For The Insane, from "General Paralysis. Cerebral Type, due to syphilis infection and characterised by progressive deterioration, leading to complete dementia and terminating fatally," the hospital records said.

The real truth about the guilt or innocence of Roland Molineux died with him....

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Van Rensburg struggles past Zivojinovic

ORLANDO, Fla., April 3. (Reuters): Third-seed Christo van Rensburg struggled with Slobodan Zivojinovic and two rain delays before winning his first round match 7-6 (7-2) 3-6 6-3 yesterday at the \$225,000 Orlando Classic men's tennis tournament.

The 31st-ranked Van Rensburg was not in peak form. But the 27-year-old South African, who lives in the United States, was able to overcome the hard-

serving Zivojinovic of Yugoslavia.

"We both knew it was a big match," Van Rensburg said. "He's good enough to be seeded in the top four here, but he hasn't been playing well the last few months. A guy with his experience couldn't have won the whole tournament."

After breaking even by taking the second set, the 109th-ranked Zivojinovic—who ranked as high as 19th in October 1987—could not close out Van Rens-

burg.

The first rain delay was 15 minutes and came with Zivojinovic serving at 4-5, 40-15 in the first set. The second one hour and 40-minute delay came in the third set with Zivojinovic serving, 1-4, 15-all.

Fifth-seed Glenn Layendecker easily rolled over wildcard Jared Palmer 6-3, 6-1. The 52nd-ranked Layendecker played solid tennis, never letting the 261st-ranked Palmer, just coming back after knee

surgery in February, into the match.

"Today, he never got into it," Layendecker said. "I was able to capitalise early. He didn't look healthy."

Eighth-seed Ramesh Krishnan also advanced to the second round with a 6-7 (2-7) 6-2 7-5 over Derrick Rostagno.

The 74th-ranked Krishnan was down a match point in the ninth game of the third set before he rallied to take the match.

England to bar Johnson from meets

LONDON, April 3. (AP): Ben Johnson will be barred from Grand Prix and other international track meets in England once his two-year suspension for steroid use ends in September, officials said yesterday.

The Amateur Athletic Association, which governs the sport in England, said the ban would apply to any athlete found guilty of drug use by national or international federations.

They could participate in England only if chosen for a national team in an event such as the Olympics or Commonwealth Games, or European or World Track Championships, the association said.

The statement reaffirmed a longstanding policy, the association said. It had no effect on meets in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland but Press Association, Britain's domestic news agency, said the British Amateur Athletics Board was likely to follow the same policy.

Johnson tested positive for steroids at the 1988 Olympics and was stripped of the gold medal in the 100 metres.

He subsequently told a Canadian inquiry that he began using performance-enhancing drugs in 1981. That confession led to his 9.83-second world record in the 100 in 1987 being erased by the International Amateur Athletic Federation.

The IAAF suspended Johnson for two years in September 1988. He is back in training and scheduled to regain his international eligibility this fall.

Call Collect may not run in steeplechase

LONDON, April 3. (Reuters): Call Collect, one of the top favorites for Saturday's Grand National Steeplechase horse race at Aintree, may not run.

A winner at the Cheltenham three-day festival meeting last month, Call Collect had been backed down to 8-1 in the 40-runner field but trainer John Parkes is praying for rain.

Doubts over Call Collect have led to more support for Brown Windsor, who is now 7-1 clear favourite.

The eight-year-old also won at Cheltenham last month and has never fallen in 11 outings over fences. The prevailing good ground should be in his favour.

Other leading fancies on Saturday include top weighted The Thinker, who finished third in the Little Polver last year, and stable companion Durham Edition, second in 1988 to Rhyme n' Reason.

Following an outcry last year when two horses had to be destroyed after falling at the infamous Becher's Brook, the obstacle has been modified.

Argentina stun W. Germany

Davis Cup holders toppled

BUENOS AIRES, April 3. (Reuters): Argentina's Alberto Mancini held his nerve after an overnight stoppage to beat Carl-Uwe Steeb and put holders West Germany out of the Davis Cup tennis competition yesterday.

Mancini's 7-6 6-3 6-4 victory in the deciding singles gave Argentina a 3-2 win over the West Germans in their world group quarterfinal.

Mancini, who was carried from the court by cheering fans after his win, needed only 24 minutes to finish off Steeb after play resumed yesterday and took his team a trip to Australia for the

semifinals in September.

The match had been suspended in fading light on Sunday evening, at a time previously agreed by both teams, with Argentina leading by two sets to love and the third set level at 3-3.

Steeb, who had beaten top Argentine Martin Jaite in his first singles rubber, was left reeling his words that West Germany, champions for the last two years, could win again even without US Open and Wimbledon champion Boris Becker.

Becker dropped out of the Davis Cup this year, saying he wanted to concentrate on trying

to take the world number one spot.

Steeb, ranked two places above Mancini in the world at 14, seemed yesterday to be in better shape than on Sunday, when he was cowed by the Argentine's powerful groundstrokes during the two hours they played.

But Mancini came back from 0-40 in the ninth game to go 5-4 ahead and blasted his way through the 10th game to dismiss the West German with a winning volley.

Argentina, who have only once reached the Cup final when they lost to the United States in

1981, had levelled the quarterfinal at 2-2 on Sunday when Jaite beat 62nd-ranked Michael Stich 4-6 6-6 1-1 6-6 3 in a four-hour, see-saw match.

Mancini won Argentina's first point on Friday when he beat 83rd-ranked Jens Woehrmann 7-5 4-6 7-6 7-6 and West Germany won both their points on Saturday with Stich defeating Jaite 6-3 6-7 6-4 6-3 and Eric Jelen and Stich overcoming Javier Frana and Gustavo Luza 6-2 7-6 6-2 in the doubles.

Besides missing Becker, the West Germans had to contend with injuries and ailments during their stay in Argentina.

Non-playing captain Nikki Pilic on Friday had to field Woehrmann, who had never played a Davis Cup match, after Stich suffered an upset stomach. On Saturday, Pilic switched the two again after a pulled leg muscle kept Woehrmann out of the reverse singles.

Pilic masked his disappointment at the loss and told reporters: "Even without Boris Becker we have a team with a lot of potential."

He said Steeb was unfortunate in having to play his first singles a day late, on Saturday, because of rain on Friday.

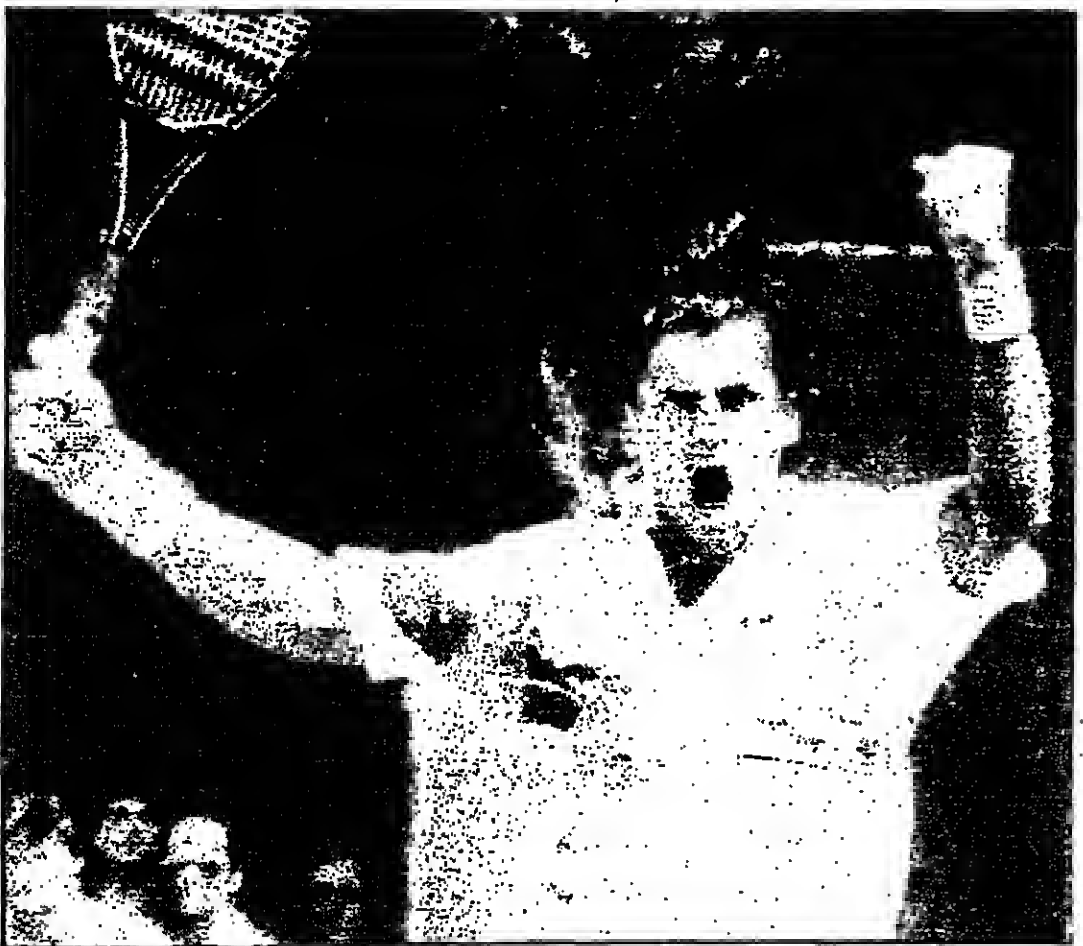
"Argentina's great advantage was that Mancini had a day's break between his singles while Steeb had to play on Saturday and for that reason he lacked sparkle," Pilic said.

Steeb said his concentration had suffered after watching Stich lose so narrowly to Jaite in the first of the reverse singles.

Stich himself said: "If I had gone 4-2 ahead against Martin Jaite in the fifth set, I would probably have won. But it was not to be. Next time I'll do better."

But West German Tennis Federation president said the team had nothing to be ashamed of.

"We can leave Buenos Aires with heads held high," he said.



Mancini: overcame Steeb

Romanians still revere Comaneci

BUCHAREST, Romania, April 3. (AP): You can come back, Nadia. All is forgiven.

The people in your homeland understand why you left. They've heard the stories about your cavorting through America with a married man and wonder why you've snubbed Bela Karolyi, who made you a star before he, too, departed for the West.

But that's OK. To your compatriots, you -- Nadia Comaneci, gymnastics star of the 1976 Olympics and perhaps the most famous Romanian alive -- remain a beloved pixie whose life was ruined by the Ceausescu family.

"Maybe the person was not great as a human, but as a sports symbol she was really great," said Radu Gliga, a Bucharest engineer. "For sure they used her for political gain, but we didn't care about this. We loved her and she gave us so much happiness."

The people who used Comaneci were the family and followers of Nicolae Ceausescu, who ruled Romania as a personal fiefdom for more than 20 years until the revolution last December. Just after Comaneci's defection.

Comaneci reportedly had a long relationship with Nicu Ceausescu, the dictator's son, although its exact nature is unclear. Comaneci has denied having anything to do with Nicu Ceausescu, though her mother has said he tormented Comaneci physically and emotionally during a five-year

relationship.

Many Romanians believe there was some kind of long-term affair between the two.

"People always loved Nadia. She is a great kid that suffered because of the golden epoch, because she was a champion and beautiful," said Petru Ioan, a gymnastics coach who worked with Karolyi and knew Comaneci as a little girl in Oresti in Eastern Romania.

"Someone should have fallen in love with her. The Little Prince (Nicu Ceausescu) caused her all the problems," he said. "She was forced by him. I couldn't tell if she loved him or not."

Ioan's wife, Christina, also a gymnastics coach, said Nicu Ceausescu — known as a playboy — would not leave Comaneci alone.

"There was a time when she wanted to give up everything," Christina Ioan said. "She wished a family, she wanted to give up everything." Christina Ioan said. "She wished a family, she wanted to get married, but she was trapped by Nicu."

Comaneci soared into superstardom as a 14-year-old. When she became the first gymnast to score a perfect 10 at the Montreal Olympics. She won three gold medals, a silver and a bronze at those Games, part of a total of 21 gold medals she eventually won in Olympic and World Championship competition.

Cherkasov, Bruguera win

ESTORIL, Portugal, April 3. (AP): Andrei Cherkasov of the Soviet Union upset seventh-seeded Guillermo Perez-Roldan of Argentina yesterday to join Spain's Sergio Bruguera and Yugoslavia's Goran Prpic in the second round of the \$76,000 ATP men's Estoril Open.

After a bleak start under gray skies at this Riviera resort near Lisbon, the stocky Soviet, ranked 72nd in the world and last year's Estoril winner, produced the tournament's first upset by dispatching Perez-Roldan 7-5, 6-3.

Bruguera, eighth seed and ranked 30th in the world by the Association of Tennis Professionals, beat Czechoslovakia's Martin Strelba in straight sets 6-3, 6-3.

Prpic, meanwhile, won a battle of attrition against gritty Frenchman Jerome Potier as the skies cleared toward midday.

Prpic trounced his opponent 6-1 in the first set, only to suffer the same fate in the second, scrambling over the clay court and losing 1-6.

The Yugoslav ace captured the third set 7-6 with a 7-4 tie breaker filled with punchy baseline rallies and quick darts to the net.

"The first set was very important for me — I just had to win it," said Cherkasov, adding that his early break in the second set seemed to have upset the Argentine at a decisive moment.

The tournament, worth \$32,400 and 103 ATP points for the winner, is slated to continue through Sunday.

Graf returning to action from injury

AMELIA ISLAND, Florida, April 3. (AP): Steffi Graf, the top-ranked women's tennis player in the world, will play next Monday in her first tournament since a thumb injury on Feb. 6.

Graf yesterday entered the Bausch and Lomb Championships in Amelia Island, according to Philippe Picciotto, one of her representatives.

Graf, 20, missed two tournaments because of her injury.



Capriati outplayed Sloane

Capriati thrashes Sloane in opener

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C., April 3. (Reuters): American teenager Jennifer Capriati outplayed compatriot Susan Sloane 6-4 6-1 in the first round of the \$500,000 Women's Cup Tennis Championships yesterday, as rain delayed play throughout the afternoon.

Top-seeded Martina Navratilova of the United States, seeking her 150th career singles title, received a first-round bye in the 56-player tournament and will face American Halle Cioffi, who beat Rosie Casals 6-3 6-4 in the first round, in the second round.

Betina Fulco of Argentina, seeded 14th, was forced to withdraw during her match with American Audra Keller when, trailing 6-1 4-0, she reached for a backhand and pulled a muscle in her back.

American Gretchen Magers, Leila Meskhi of the Soviet Union and twelfth-seeded Isabel Cuetio of West Germany were all first-round winners in the clay court tournament.

Capriati, who reached the finals of her first professional tournament last month in Boca Raton, Fla., said she is happy to be playing in a normal setting after all the media and public attention she has received.

"It's nice to come out and play my matches without having all the guards walk me to the court. This is a lot more like I am used to tennis being, like it was in the juniors," Capriati said.

Capriati repeatedly outplayed the 34th-ranked Sloane from the baseline in the first set and coasted through the second set when Sloane forced her shots and began making unforced errors.

Capriati, who turned 14 on March 28, is playing in only her third professional tournament and will receive a world ranking after this week.

Keep politics out of Olympics, says Bush

ATLANTA, April 3. (Reuters): President George Bush, urging Olympics officials to pick Atlanta as the site of the 1996 Summer Games, declared yesterday that international politics must be kept out of the world's leading sports spectacle.

Bush, in Atlanta to address the National Association of Broadcasters, made the statement at the meeting with Olympics officials studying sites for the Games.

"We've got to keep politics out of the Olympics," Bush said after one of the officials mentioned "political trouble in the past."

"I feel very strongly about it," Bush said. "I'd like to keep politics out of the Olympic Games."

The United States boycotted the 1980 Summer Games in Moscow in protest against the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan.

In response, Moscow refused to allow its athletes to participate in the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

Bush, who was shown a model of Atlanta's proposed facilities for the Games, told the Olympics representatives: "I don't want to put the hard sell on it, but I feel very strongly about it."



George Bush

"This president is interested in having them come to this city," he added.

The selection committee is expected to announce its decision on September 18. Also under consideration are Athens, Melbourne and Toronto.

Golden Bear on the prowl again

AUGUSTA, GA., April 3. (Reuters): The world's top golfers gathered yesterday for the 1990 Masters championship aware that the "Golden Bear" was on the prowl again and hungry to feast on one more victory.

Jack Nicklaus, who has won a record six Masters titles, served up an impressive display of golf on Sunday in winning a senior title at his first attempt and immediately focused his attention on the Masters which begins on Thursday.

Nicklaus, who turned 50 in January, shot a four-under-par 68 to win the tradition tournament in Scottsdale, Arizona, by four strokes from his longtime rival, Gary Player of South Africa.

After his seemingly effortless victory, Nicklaus could hardly contain his eagerness to return to the Augusta National Golf Club, the permanent home of the Masters, where the picturesque course is eminently suited to his game.

"If I'm going to win on the regular Tour, the Masters will be the easiest to win," said Nicklaus, who collected his sixth Masters green jacket in 1986 with a spectacular final round of 65 to

become the oldest winner of the tournament at 46.

"I've won there six times, so obviously I like the course and I know how to play it," added Nicklaus, who holds the 72-hole Augusta National record of 271, 17 under par.

"I hit it long enough to reach the par fives, so length won't be a factor," explained Nicklaus, who hit 14 greens in regulations on Sunday on a course he designed and which he says is very similar to the Augusta National.

"I don't have the strength I used to, but Augusta doesn't have the rough of a US Open or a PGA Championship," he said.

Nicklaus also admitted that his short game still left something to be desired. "But at Augusta you can putt from off the greens."

Player, a three-time Masters champion, said he was convinced Nicklaus could achieve his latest ambition to win victories on both the senior and regular Tours.

"Jack can win at Augusta, believe me," Player said after playing the final two rounds at Scottsdale with Nicklaus. "He's driving the ball as far as anyone, his confidence is high and Augusta is just made for him."



Nicklaus: seeks one more Masters title

Dokes set to take on Ruddock

NEW YORK, April 3. (UPI): Michael Dokes takes life one day at a time, like all addicts. He has also learned to take his boxing career one fight at a time.

Dokes' next fight is tomorrow evening against Donovan "Razor" Ruddock at Madison Square Garden in a scheduled 12-round battle of heavyweight contenders. The winner moves up in the pecking order of contenders to champion Buster Douglas. The loser? Well, Dokes would rather not think about that.

At 32, former champion Dokes has more to lose than the 34-year-old Ruddock. Dokes knows he is running out of time to gain another title shot, and would like to avoid the kind of setback he suffered when he lost to Evander Holyfield last year. That loss was his only defeat in 13 bouts since he came back from a cocaine problem in 1986.

"I can't even envision anything like losing," Dokes said yesterday. "It's the furthest thing from my mind."

"This fight is essential, in order for me to keep the sobriety I have, to keep the frame of mind I have, to keep the esteem I have. The label I put on every fight is 'fight for life.' There's that much involved for me."

Dokes, 41-2-2, said he hardly thinks about challenging Douglas because that is too far in the future. Douglas will likely fight Holyfield in September, with Mike Tyson getting the first shot at the winner.

"It's premature even to think of Douglas," Dokes said. "The only thing I can think of is Donovan 'Razor' Ruddock. I must eliminate him to continue my career."

"Everything I've been working on for 20 years is coming together now. I'm not willing to relinquish that feeling now."

Dokes held the World Boxing Association heavyweight title from 1982-83. He wants to become champion again, but says he is fighting for something more important to him.

"My own self-esteem is more important than the championship," he said. "I've already had a championship. The personal goal I've set for myself is to make my own self-esteem better."

Jo Ruddock, Dokes will face one of the best young heavyweights in the world. Ruddock hopes the fight will give him the experience he needs to go with his talent. In his last fight, Ruddock was decked by James "Bonecrusher" Smith in the second round before stopping Smith in seven rounds last July.

Ruddock, 22-1-1, has not fought since. He was scheduled to fight Tyson for the litleon Nov 18 in Edmonton, Alberta, but Tyson pulled out.

"I don't think I'm risking everything against Dokes," Ruddock said. "I'm going to have to fight him sooner or later."

The bout, which will be the first in the Garden's main arena in over four years, is expected to draw over 10,000. Smith, who knocked out Tim Witherspoon in the first round Dec 12, 1986 for the WBA title in the Garden's last fight, will fight another former WBA champion, Mike Weaver, on the undercard. Also, Edwin Rosario will defend his WBA lightweight title against Juan Nazario.

The only television for the show is pay-per-view.

Samaranch assesses preparations

BARCELONA, Spain, April 3. (Reuters): International Olympic chief Juan Antonio Samaranch met the organizers of Barcelona's 1992 Olympic Games yesterday to assess progress made since preparations got off to a shaky start.

It was the first time that International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Samaranch had personally headed one of the regular progress meetings with the Barcelona Organising Committee (COOB).

Organisers were hoping that the two-day meeting would improve relations between the two bodies, damaged by Samaranch's publicly-expressed doubts about whether Barcelona would be ready for the Games.

Samaranch was expected to make a statement after the second day of talks this evening, COOB officials said.

COOB chief Josep Miquel Abad told reporters the capacity of the Montjuich Stadium, accommodation and transport were on the agenda.

COOB president and Barcelona mayor Pasqual Maragall told Samaranch Barcelona would be able to accommodate the 40,000-strong Olympic family but said greater numbers could be a problem.

Heavy rain spoiled Maragall's plans to lay out a helicopter tour of the Olympic sites. The mayor has been moving at a frantic pace in recent weeks to give Barcelona-born Samaranch a good impression.

Besides laying the foundation stones of various venues, Maragall has repaired his relationship with Catalan government leader Jordi Pujol after a dispute over who should pay for some projects.

Samaranch also met Spanish Education and Sports Minister Javier Solana who explained the government's decision last Friday to form a commission of cabinet ministers charged with smoothing the path towards the Games.

The setting up of the commission has provided a much-needed boost of confidence for the organisers who are adamant that all essential Olympic facilities will be ready by mid-1991.

Abad said the only venue still to be confirmed was the boxing hall.

He said an agreement was likely on April 21 when the International Amateur Boxing Association (AIBA) visited Barcelona.

Abad said South Korea's Kim



Antonio Samaranch

UnYong, president of the IOC's radio and television commission, told the COOB that boxing events should be held in only one ring.

The use of two rings at the Seoul Olympics had caused problems for television coverage and for the participants, he said.

SPORTS

Milan face Bayern, Marseille meet Benfica

Top European marksmen clash

LONDON, April 3. (Reuters) French sharp-shooter Jean-Pierre Papin aims to outgun Swedish ace Mats Magnusson when two of Europe's most prolific marksmen clash in a European Cup soccer semifinal showdown between Marseille and Benfica on Wednesday.

But while Papin duels with Magnusson in Marseille, Dutch star Marco van Basten can show he is still the classiest striker in Europe when he leads the attack of Italian holders AC Milan in the other semifinal first leg against West German champions Bayern Munich.

Papin plundered his third hat-trick of the season last Saturday to hoist his tally of League goals to 27 as Marseille romped to a 4-1 win over Lille.

Magnusson was also firmly on target on Saturday, striking twice in the second half to give Benfica a 2-0 home win over Chaves in the Portuguese First Division and raise his personal account for the season to 28.

Van Basten has netted 19 times in the Italian First Division. The trio are top scorers in their respective leagues.

Predatory Papin supplied the lion's share of the goals which earned Marseille the French League and Cup double last year and has scored on five of his six European outings this season.

He noticed his 100th goal for Marseille in the 3-1 quarterfinal second leg win over CFK Sofia two weeks ago which took the club's ambitious millionaire



Van Basten: leads Milan attack

president Bernard Tapie a step closer to fulfilling his dream of bringing Europe's premier club trophy to France for the first time.

England winger Chris Waddle is proving an ideal foil for Papin

and scored himself against both CFK and Lille.

Benfica were the semifinal opponents both Tapie and Waddle wanted.

Benfica, like Marseille, are second in their domestic League

but they have not been at their best and could be without influential Swedish midfielder Jonas Thern, who was out of action last weekend because of a leg injury.

Benfica have to look back a long way — to 1961 and 1962 — for their European Cup triumphs, though they reached the final in 1988 when they were defeated in a penalty shootout by PSV Eindhoven of the Netherlands.

High-flying PSV fell to Bayern in these quarterfinals and the West Germans, enjoying an unfamiliar underdog role, will hope to upset the odds when they take on AC Milan in the San Siro stadium.

AC Milan will be without gifted winger Roberto Donadoni, effectively barred from the rest of the competition when he was suspended for three matches by the European Football Union (UEFA) for violence in the quarterfinal second leg against Belgium's Mechelen.

Midfielder Carlo Ancelotti, who plays alongside Donadoni for Italy, was injured in the same match and will be another absentee from a side deprived by injury of the exceptional talents of Dutchman Ruud Geulit.

Geulit's compatriot Van Basten, European Footballer of the Year for the past two seasons, guided Milan into the semifinals by breaking the scoreless deadlock against Mechelen with an extra-time goal which led to a

hard-earned 2-0 win.

Van Basten and utility defender Frank Rijkaard, withheld by Milan from a Dutch international match last week, will play key roles for the title-holders who have lost their aura of invincibility in recent weeks.

Roland Grahammer and Roland Wohlfarth, scorers of the goals which gave Bayern an important first-leg edge over PSV in the quarterfinals, are suspended for the Milan clash after collecting one booking apiece too many.

But Bayern expect to include Scottish striker Alan McInally, who took a knock in last Saturday's 3-1 win over VfB Stuttgart which maintained the Munich club's three-point lead in the Bundesliga.

Two of the six semifinal first-leg ties in three European club competitions were kicking off this evening.

French representatives Monaco were entertaining Sampdoria of Italy, last year's beaten finalists, in the European Cup Winner's Cup and West Germans Werder Bremen, conquerors of holders Napoli in the third round, were at home to Italy's Fiorentina in the UEFA Cup.

Tomorrow, Belgium's Anderlecht, who ousted holders Barcelona from the Cup Winners' Cup, renew their ambitions at home to Dinamo Bucharest, while Juventus take on Cologne in another Italian-West German confrontation in the UEFA Cup.

Gulf sailors invited to Abu Dhabi

SAILORS from Kuwait have been sent invitations to take part in the Abu Dhabi sailing association's seventh annual international open sailing regatta, the event which is supported by Dunhill, is expected to attract crews from around the region, including Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman and Qatar as well as from the various clubs around the UAE.

The Abu Dhabi sailing association is made up of four clubs in the capital. The Abu Dhabi sailing club, whose origins go back over twenty years, supports fleets one for keelboats and the other for lasers. The club, actively promote catamaran sailing, whilst the boardwalkers compete regularly in windsurfing competitions around the emirates.

The fourth member is the Abu Dhabi cruiser association, which was originally formed in 1982. The Hiltoria sports and leisure centre, which will host the event, have been long time supporters of cruiser racing, and have sponsored a series of races during the summer for some years. During the recent Dunhill International cruiser classic held over 178 nautical miles, around the southern Gulf, Abu Dhabi's Fran and Andy Leonard took third place in division 1 and third overall.

The regatta will follow a similar format to last year's event, with seven main categories of sailing events being held on the Thursday and Friday.

Witt and Boitano prepare for tour

PORTLAND, Maine, April 3. (AP) Figure skaters Katarina Witt and Brian Boitano, rehearsing for their upcoming 34-city international tour, say there's a special chemistry in the ease with which they perform together on the ice.

Boitano said they anticipate each other's movements and share similar feelings about how the partner's role fits in with his or her own.

"The way we conceive of each part is the same," Boitano says. "So if I say, 'I really feel like I'm doing this,' she'll go, 'I feel the same way.' And when I look at her I can see that she feels the same way."

"In some ways, we are the same," Witt adds. "We always want to be good, to be perfect. We put a lot of heart into the skating."

Boitano, of the United States, and Witt, of East Germany, began two weeks of rehearsals here yesterday in preparation for the show in which the reigning Olympic gold medalists will skate together for the first time before a live audience.

The show, "Brian Boitano and Katarina Witt skating," opens in Portland on April 15 and will continue through June 12, ending in Philadelphia. A tour of Europe and Japan is scheduled for September and October.

Boitano said the show, which also features a dozen other Olympic and world champion skaters, has "A Street Look" and is a far cry from the glitzy Las Vegas-style extravaganzas that many audiences have come to associate with the genre.

"It's new. It's a contemporary ice show. It's what's happening now," he said.

In their first rehearsal, Boitano, Witt and choreographers Sandra Bezic and Michael Siebert worked on "Isolation Hotel," a number in which the two skaters portray lovers who seek emotional therapy for their bumpy relationship.

Each is locked in a hotel room, unaware that the other is in the room next door. Skating to the haunting ballad, their movements reflect how their thoughts are focussed exclusively on each other.

"I think that's probably our favourite piece," Boitano said.

The skaters, who won gold medals in the 1988 Olympics in Calgary, say the challenge in performing at ice shows is different from that of international competition.



Witt: put a lot of heart into skating

SPORTS BRIEFS

Cup hell

CAIRO, April 3. (UPI) Egypt soccer manager Mahmoud El Gohary says his World Cup final qualifying team is not going on a picnic in Italy but to "hell itself." "Fans think that we are going to Italy to crush other teams in the World Cup. This is totally wrong for we are not going there on a picnic but to face hell itself, in my opinion," El Gohary said in an interview in yesterday's Al-Ahram newspaper.

Cycling champion

PARIS, April 3. (UPI) World road race cycling champion Greg LeMond, who won his second Tour de France last year, has returned to the United States, where he plans to race in the Tour de Trump May 1-13.

Brazilian player

MILAN, Italy, April 3. (AP) Lazio of Rome, the first Italian major League club to open the transfer campaign for the next season, reportedly signed Brazilian midfielder Valdo following the acquisition of West German forward Karl Heinz Riedle from Werder Bremen.

English soccer

LONDON, April 3. (Reuters) Results of English League Fourth Division soccer matches played yesterday.

Cambridge	5	Scarbrough	2
York	3	Exeter	0

Milan appeal

BERNE, April 3. (Reuters) European Cup holders AC Milan have appealed against a three-match ban on Roberto Donadoni which effectively rules the international winger out of the rest of their title defence.

Romanian manager

PISA, Italy, April 3. (AP) Romanian manager Mircea Lucescu has signed with Pisa and will direct the Italian club next season, club officials announced yesterday.

Woman jockey

LONDON, April 3. (Reuters) Woman jockey Gee Armytage will miss Saturday's Aintree Grand National after suffering a suspected broken leg. Armytage was to have partnered outsider Monamore, who finished third in the National in 1988.

Baur triumphs

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil 3. (AP) West German Patrick Baur upset eight-seeded Horacio de La Pena of Argentina in opening day play yesterday at the \$250,000 Banespa Open tennis tournament.

Ferry waits

ROME, April 3. (AP) Danny Ferry said yesterday he's waiting until the end of the Italian regular season before making up his mind on whether to return to the United States to play for the Cleveland Cavaliers in the NBA next season.

Padres sold

SAN DIEGO, April 3. (AP) An investment group headed by Hollywood producer Tom Werner signed a letter of intent yesterday to purchase the San Diego Padres baseball team, club owner Joan Kroc said. Terms of the transaction were not released, but the club's price tag was reported to be \$75 million.

Fiji squad

SYDNEY, Australia, April 3. (AP) Former Australian national rugby union coach Alan Jones is coaching the Fiji national team on a temporary basis and may take the job permanently.

Brazil players receive ultimatum

RIO DE JANEIRO, April 3. (Reuters) The Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) has warned players selected for the World Cup they must be present on April 23 when training begins or risk missing the competition.

The ultimatum was made even though many of Brazil's foreign-based players have club commitments after the deadline.

Jorge Saldado, a CBF director, told Reuters yesterday he was confident all 22 players selected by coach Sebastiao Lazaroni would meet the demand.

"We are working with the hypothesis that all the players will be present on the 23rd," he said.

"If any player is not present the committee will meet and decide what to do. If he has a good justification for his absence, he will be maintained in the squad. If not, he will be dropped."

Saldado said all the players

were warned before last Wednesday's 1-0 defeat by England. "Some said they would have a certain amount of difficulty but at the end it was almost certain that we would have them all," he said.

The foreign based players likely to be selected are Jorginho (Bayer Leverkusen), Mozer (Marseille), Romario (PSV Eindhoven), Valdo, Ricardo, Aldair (all Benfica), Branco (FC Porto), Careca, Alemão (both Napoli), Julio Cesar (Montpellier) and Dunga (Fiorentina).

Leverkusen are second in the West German League and have six games after April 23. Napoli are second in the Italian League, which also finishes after the deadline, while Benfica could be involved in the final of the European Cup.

"If they are present on the 23rd, Lazaroni will then decide on the possibility or not of them returning to Europe to play for



Sebastiao Lazaroni

their teams," Saldado said.

Lazaroni intends to announce his 22 for Italy on April 16, five weeks before the official deadline, and begin training camp on April 23 at the moun-

tain resort of Teresopolis, 90 kilometres from Rio, to give him a full six weeks with his squad.

Lazaroni said yesterday he was in contact with Fiorentina, but denied making a deal to take charge of the Italian first division side next season.

"There are only contacts with Fiorentina, there is nothing firm," Lazaroni said in this central Italian city where Brazil will stay from May 20-29 during their build-up to the World Cup finals. "I'm Brazil's coach up to the World Cup, then we'll see. I like Italy and its football," added Lazaroni, whose is touring Italy to finalise their World Cup arrangements.

Brazil face Scotland, Sweden and Costa Rica in Turin in Group C of the World Cup finals starting on June 8.

Fiorentina sacked coach Bruno Giorgi last week, replacing him with 1982 World Cup player Francesco Graziani.

UNLV overwhelm Duke for NCAA title

DENVER, April 3. (AP) Anderson Hunt scored 29 points to lead the University of Las Vegas-Nevada to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Basketball Championship over Duke University, 103-73.

UNLV ended last night's game with the largest margin of victory in a college national championship game.

Jerry Tarkanian, a coach who fought the NCAA in the courts for the past 15 years, guided UNLV to its first national title and Duke continued as the school with the most frustrating of postseason records.

Tarkanian's Runnin' Rebels also became the first college team with a preseason No. 1 ranking to win the title since North Carolina in 1982, and the first Western team since UCLA won in 1975.

They did it with style they have made famous — tenacious man-to-man defense — as they rattled Duke, a team known for its savvy and poise.

Duke was making its eighth appearance in the final four of the NCAA season-ending tournament. The Blue Devils went home again without a trophy, extending the longest streak of national semifinal futility.

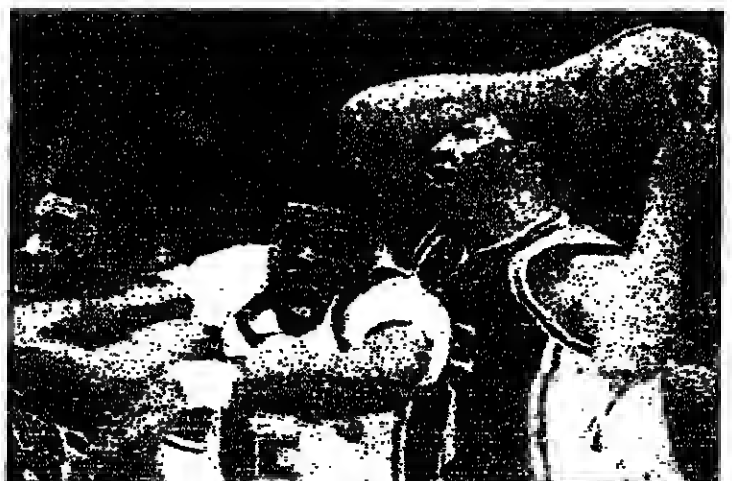
UNLV broke the tournament record for steals in a game with 16, eclipsing the mark set by Duke in the 1986 championship game and matched by Oklahoma in the 1988 title game.

Until last night, the largest margin of victory in a championship game was 23 points, when UCLA beat North Carolina 78-55 in 1968.

For Tarkanian, the man who sits on the bench looking as though it pains him to watch his team win, getting the trophy capped a long battle with the NCAA, which ordered the school to sus-



UNLV players celebrate. (Reuters wirephoto)



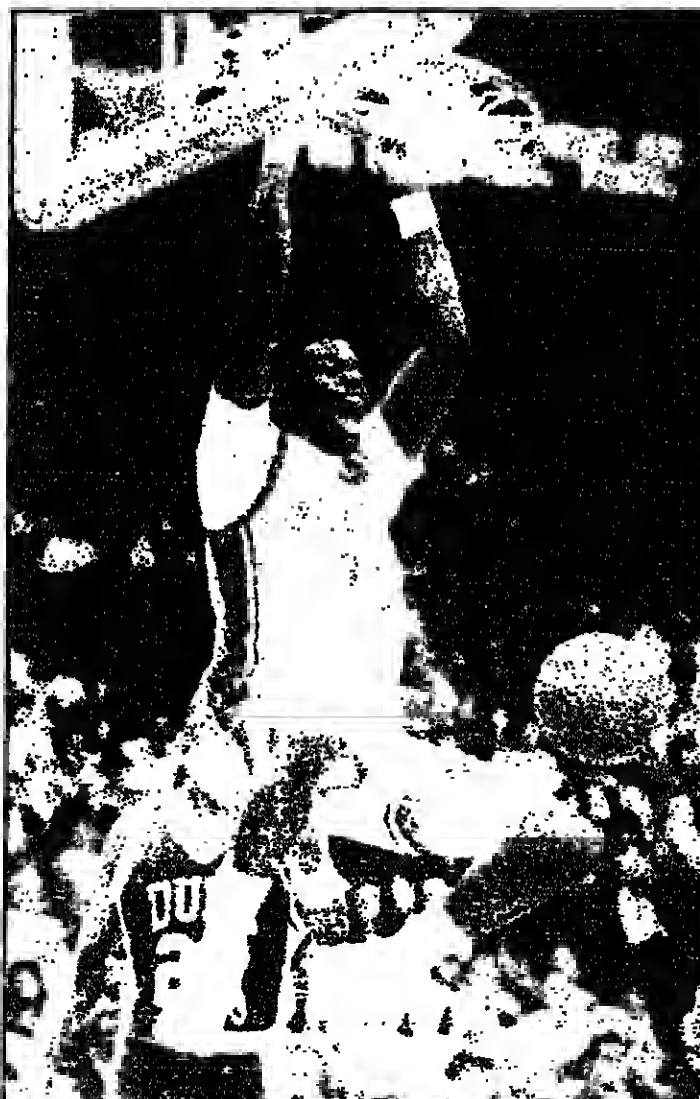
Duke's Robert (left) and Alaa Abdalnaby restrain UNLV's Moses Scerry. (Reuters wirephoto)

end him for violations. He went to court for an injunction and the case eventually reached the Supreme Court, which ruled in favour of the NCAA.

UNLV managed a 10-point

lead just 7:26 into the game as the Rebels forced Duke into turnover after turnover, mostly by stealing the ball.

They scored the first points of the game, and never trailed.



Las Vegas' Moses Scerry lets out a scream after dunking the ball. (Reuters wirephoto)

Duke, which averaged 17.2 turnovers per game this season, had 14 at halftime and 10 of those were on steals by the Rebels.

The first 10-point lead came on a sequence of four UNLV steals

in four consecutive possessions — the last was by Stacey Augmon, who took the ball from Phil Henderson near midcourt and sailed in for a dunk. That made it 21-11.

Arabs seek bigger say in Asia soccer

KUALA LUMPUR, April 3. (Reuters) A battle is brewing for top posts in the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), partly because of the desire of Arab states for a bigger say in Asian soccer development, officials said.

AFC president Hamzah Abu Samah of Malaysia, who also holds a vice-presidency of the Federation Internationale de Football Association (Fifa) representing the AFC, will be challenged for both posts at a congress next month.

Hamzah will face Malaysian Defence Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen for the AFC presidency, while Kuwait's Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed plans to take him on for the Fifa post, AFC officials said.

Officials expect a close fight at the four-day congress, which begins on the Indonesian resort island of Bali on May 2.

AFC officials said opposition to Hamzah mainly came from the Football Association of Malaysia (FAM) headed by Sultan Ahmad Shah, the ruler of one of Malaysia's 13 states.

The Sultan recently told reporters the FAM was unhappy with the AFC. Rithauddeen, FAM deputy president, is a proxy of the Sultan, AFC officials said.

Malaysian soccer officials said the FAM was unhappy over the AFC handling of several regional soccer tournaments which pitted Malaysia against powerful South Korea.

The AFC, set up in 1954 and headquartered in Kuala Lum-



Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed

pur, has had a Malaysian president since 1965.

AFC officials said Sheikh Fahd had agreed to back Rithauddeen if the Malaysian supported him for the Fifa vice-president's post.

"Sheikh Fahd feels that both the top posts in AFC should not be held by one person and the Arab states must have a larger say in Asia's soccer," said one AFC official who asked not to be identified.

Officials said Hamzah, who commands strong support in the 34-member AFC, is likely to receive tacit Fifa backing to continue as president ahead of the World Cup finals in Italy in June.

"Hamzah is the incumbent and many may not want to rock the boat since it is the World Cup year," said one AFC official.

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